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THE QUARTERLY PULSE OF UMC



UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
OF EL PASO

WINTER ISSUE 2025

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Meet some of the newest
UMC Associates ready
to make an impact in our
community.

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UMC'S SINGLE PORT SURGICAL ROBOT IN USE

Read how UMC is using the
Da Vinci Single Port Robot
for urological procedures.

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UMC'S 5K RUN/WALK IS A HUGE SUCCESS

See photos from the event
held this past fall!

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THANK YOU, EL PASO!

2024 Bond Approved



Keep Up With UMC

SOCIAL MEDIA, PODCASTS, VIDEOS AND MORE!

SCAN TO VISIT AND FOLLOW!



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SCAN THE CODE TO LISTEN!

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Quarterly Stars Announced, Shine Bright

Each quarter, UMC announces five Associates who were nominated and selected for special recognition for their performance, excellence and dedication.

Question: What do you love about working at UMC?



Bryan A. Alvarez

A: "What I love about working at UMC is the people I work with and the patients."



Gloria Trujillo, Certified Medical Assistant, Clinic CMA Float Pool

A: "Working at UMC means being at a place where there is unity. We always stand by each other, with good morale, and care for one another in both good and bad moments."



Severita Vargas, Coordinator Data, Support Services

A: "I love my co-workers, helping the patients, the people I work with, they make everything better."



Veronica Lucero-Drennan, Credentialing Specialist

A: "I love working for UMC because it feels like I am working with family."



Yvette Rodriguez, Ultrasound Tech. II, Imaging Northeast:

A: "I love the people that I work with, and I am glad that I can help the patients that come to our facility."

New DAISY Nurses Bloom With Care, Excellence

The DAISY Award honors extraordinary nurses who consistently exemplify excellence and exceed expectations in communication, compassion, patient relations and professional skills to personally impact the lives of their patients.



Alexis Saucedo, RNII CVICU

"I came to the hospital with a super high heart rate and a foot that was fractured and had an open wound. I had asked for strong pain meds and for my foot to be seen by a wound care specialist. When Alexis started her shift, I called her and explained my situation. Her info was limited on my condition, but she immediately went into action and made sure

that everything was taken care of and she brought the wound care people to ensure my foot was cleaned, wrapped, and disinfected. She also went above and beyond to ensure that I was comfortable and pain free. She definitely deserves recognition and a huge thank you for giving so much of herself to her profession. Employees like Alexis are hard to find and I am so blessed and grateful that she was my nurse when I was in so much turmoil. Don't ever lose her. They are so hard to find. She's a rock star."

- Patient, 7/7/24

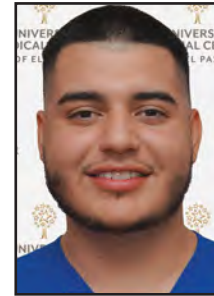


Victor Burciaga, RNII ICU

"I had the privilege of being under this young man's care, once in ICU and once in ER. While in his care in ICU he was my voice. He made sure I was comfortable and spoke up for me to get my pain taken care of. Very attentive and respectful. He made sure my wife was taken care of as well during my stay. I was having hot flashes, and the A/C wasn't working

for me. Victor went around looking for a cooling fan to help me and keep me comfortable. The second time was in the ER. As soon as he saw us, he remembered who we were. Once again, he was taking excellence care of me and the other patients. His warm and calm tone helps patients keep calm and relaxed, along with his explanation of what was happening. I sincerely appreciate his work and kindness to myself and other patients."

- Patient, 9/20/24



Carlos Villa, RNII Telemetry

"Carlos is phenomenal! He took care of me with kid gloves. He always had a smile and a positive attitude. He was always two steps ahead. Whenever I called for him, he was in my room immediately with all the right answers. He had everything I needed before I even knew I needed it. He had all the right answers and was

willing to research any questions that he didn't have the answers to. He is an exemplary nurse. If anyone deserves this award, he does. I have been in this hospital four times in the last 10 months. He is by far the best nurse I have ever had on any floor. I have been in an additional two hospitals in the last 12 months, as well. He outshined them all. I cannot give this man enough kudos. He is knowledgeable, kind, caring and a wonderful man. He deserves this award more than any other nurse ever will! Thank you."

- Patient, 9/14/24

First-ever Physician Recognition Awarded To Longtime UMC Physician

This year's Medical Staff Services Awards Banquet featured the first-ever Physician of Excellence Award, which was awarded to Dr. Leida Perez.

Dr. Perez, who is board-certified in Internal Medicine, was nominated for her outstanding work and dedication to UMC's patients.

She began her journey with UMC in 2006 as a resident, when UMC was still R.E. Thomason General Hospital. In 2009, Dr. Perez began working at UMC's Outpatient Clinics as an Internal Medicine physician and eventually served as the Medical Director for the UMC Outpatient Clinics for a couple of years.

Dr. Perez has been a critical member of our physician leadership team who has helped the hospital grow, navigate the pandemic and expand clinics.

Congratulations on receiving such a prestigious award, Dr. Perez!



Happy Retirement, Myron & Veronica!



After 37 years at UMC, Myron Lewis, Director and Assistant Administrator of Pharmacy Services, is excited to retire and dedicate time to family, friends and traveling.

Originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, Myron graduated from UT-Austin and moved to El Paso for his first job as a pharmacist at Gunning & Costeel Drugs in Central El Paso.

Myron played an integral role in the growth and success of UMC's Pharmacy Department and led the way in ensuring UMC was prepared to receive, store and administer the first COVID-19 vaccines in El Paso.

His advice is to always look for ways to improve. He said, "Just look at the things that you can do to improve the hospital and do it! I found I have always been helped by Associates and others to do what needed to be done."

Congratulations on your much deserved retirement!



After working at UMC for 30 years, Veronica Archuleta is excited for what retirement will bring.

"Retirement is not the end of the road, it is the beginning of the open highway," she said.

Veronica was a Nursing Education Coordinator who began her journey with UMC when it was originally R.E. Thomason General Hospital.

Associates would often look to her for guidance and advice on educational opportunities and the processing of reimbursements from the Nursing Education Bank.

Beyond her professional achievements, Veronica is known for her love of cycling and plans to spend her well-earned retirement enjoying the beautiful El Paso landscapes on her bike, as well as spending quality time with her family.

Happy Retirement, Veronica!

Welcome To Our UMC Family

Get to know just a few of our new Associates!



Adriana De La Torre,
Food Service Worker

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "I wanted to work here because it was the County Hospital."

Q: What is one thing on your bucket list?

A: "To keep learning."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Talking with new people I meet."

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: "I like taking care of my home and going shopping."



Barbara Gomez, Certified Surgical Tech.

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "I am a rehire."

Q: What are you binging?

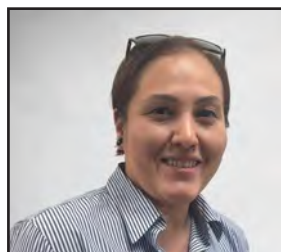
A: "Sister wives."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Camp."

Q: What is one thing at the very top of your bucket list?

A: "Traveling to holy cities."



Cristal Castruita, Certified RN Anesthetist

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "Nursing at UMC gave me a great foundation and after grad school, it is a gift to return to my community."

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

A: "Reading... non-fiction."

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: "The Cowboys."

Q: What is one thing at the very top of your bucket list?

A: "Pain Fellowship."



Monica Casillas, Patient Care Tech.

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "I've heard great things about working here."

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: "Movies with my son."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Go to Scenic Drive with my son."

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: "Buffalo Bills."



Ruben M. Escobar, Mgr. Clinical Doc. Improvement

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "I was offered a really good job opportunity. I liked everything about it from day one."

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

A: "Listening to music."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Be with my family."

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: "Liverpool F.C."



Summer Neal, Supv. Billing and Coding

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "The opportunities with tuition assistance, benefits and friendly environment."

Q: What is your secret talent?

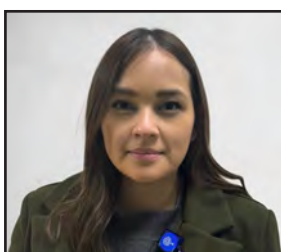
A: "Baking desserts."

Q: What is at the top of your bucket list?

A: "Travel overseas."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Hiking."



Susan Najera, RN, PRN.

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "To get to grow my experience as a nurse."

Q: What are your hobbies?

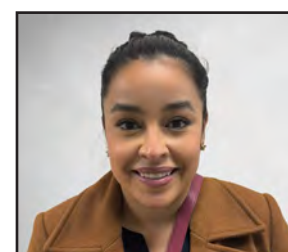
A: "Movies and the gym."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Go to Top Golf."

Q: What is at the top of your bucket list?

A: "Go to Italy and get a new house."



Vanessa Porras, Patient Navigator Nurse

Q: What made you want to work at UMC?

A: "I left in 2021 and told my director I would be back. UMC has taught me so much and I am forever thankful."

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: "Hanging out with my hubby and kids."

Q: What is at the top of your bucket list?

A: "To visit Switzerland."

Q: What is your favorite thing to do locally?

A: "Movies."

UMC's First Deep Brain Stimulation Procedure Successful



Dr. Harold Smith, UMC Neurosurgeon, performs a Deep Brain Stimulation Procedure at UMC.

University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) successfully completed its first Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery for patients with neurological conditions that affect mobility, such as Parkinson's disease, in October.

Dr. Harold Smith, a UMC neurosurgeon, is trained to perform this treatment for patients with movement disorders and Essential Tremor (ET).

Using sophisticated technology and state-of-the-art equipment, UMC neurosurgeons implanted electrodes in specific areas of the patient's brain to regulate abnormal signals.

"Typically, we will do this in two stages," explained Dr. Smith. "We will do the more complex part, which is placing the small electrodes in the proper target using this sophisticated technology, and then we come back about a week later and put the patient under general anesthesia while we slip the little electrode connectors into the battery, which is placed in a pocket on the chest wall."

The patient was awake during the first part of the procedure while the neurosurgeon stimulated the brain with small electric pulses to test the electrode placement.

The patient was then asked to perform certain movements to ensure proper positioning. After the surgery, the pulse generator is programmed by the neurologist to deliver specific impulses to control the patient's symptoms of stiffness, slowness and tremor, significantly improving their quality of life.

UMC continues to work toward providing our region with a wide range of advanced medical services that our community has often had to travel out of town to obtain.

Under the leadership of Dr. J.D. Day, UMC's Medical Director of Neurosurgery, our neurosurgeons are bringing some of the most advanced techniques for the treatment of neurological conditions to our Borderland.

For information about UMC's Neurosurgery and Spine Center, visit nexusel Paso.com.

A First For UMC: Urological Procedure Using Single Port Robot



Dr. Jesus Herrera-Murillo (left), performs a urological procedure using UMC's new Da Vinci Single Port Robotic System.

El Paso's first urological procedure using the Da Vinci Single Port (SP) Robotic System was performed at UMC by Dr. Jesus Herrera-Murillo.

Dr. Murillo successfully performed a partial nephrectomy, which is when part of the kidney is removed, using the SP robotic system.

"The uniqueness of this procedure is the technology," said Dr. Murillo. "We are lucky UMC has a Single Port, which not very many places do, and this allows us to use the technology to stay away from the peritoneum and make a smaller incision."

UMC was the first hospital in El Paso to introduce the use of the Da Vinci SP robotic system in 2023. The robotic system gives surgeons the ability to deliver

robotic-assisted surgery through a single port, instead of multiple ports, making surgeries less invasive.

The benefits of using the Da Vinci SP for a urological procedure is that it results in less incisions and provides a faster, less painful recovery for patients.

"The biggest thing for me, since I am from El Paso, is that you do not have to go anywhere else for high-tech surgeries, you do not need to go to Houston, or other cities, we have what we need here and so, for the patient, they do not have to travel, they can get the latest technology here and that's pretty awesome," said Dr. Murillo.

Other cities have used the Single Port for these types of procedures, but this case

was the first time the Single Port was used for a urological procedure in El Paso.



The Da Vinci Single Port Robotic System prepped for surgery.

UMC Receives Reverification As Level 1 Trauma Center



Once again, University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) received reverification of its Level 1 Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons.

The UMC Scherr Legate Level 1 Trauma Center is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in a 270-mile radius of El Paso,

recognized within the Texas and New Mexico Trauma Systems.

Since 2001, UMC's Scherr Legate Level 1 Trauma Center has been distinguished by the immediate full availability of specialized personnel, equipment and services to treat the most severe and critical injuries.

Being a Level 1 Trauma Center means UMC remains committed to maintaining a full-range of specialties and resources available 24-hours a day.

This achievement recognizes a trauma center's dedication to providing the highest level of care for injured patients. From life-saving surgeries to critical emergency care, UMC serves as our community's lifeline.

UMC Recognized For Achieving Meritorious Outcomes For Surgical Patient Care



University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) was once again deemed meritorious in outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures by The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®).

Nationwide, 77 hospitals received this meritorious distinction, of which, UMC was among 32 hospitals to receive the distinction for two or more consecutive years and among 43 hospitals who were recognized for meritorious outcomes in both categories.

"For a fourth year in a row, we are proud to be recognized for our commitment to our patients. This achievement demonstrates the superior care our staff provides on a consistent basis. When patients choose UMC, they are choosing an institution that is committed to exceptional surgical care from high-quality physicians and staff," said Jacob Cintron, President & CEO, El Paso County Hospital District.

The ACS NSQIP recognition program commends a select group of hospitals for achieving a meritorious composite score in either an "All Cases" category or in a "High Risk" case category, both of which UMC received recognition based on data from 2023.

The goal of ACS NSQIP is to reduce surgical morbidity, surgical mortality, and to provide a firm foundation for surgeons to apply what is known as the "best scientific evidence" to the practice of surgery.

UMC Gastroenterologists Showcase Expertise At National Convention



Dr. Marc Zuckerman demonstrates single-balloon enteroscopy to gastroenterology attendees at the annual meeting of the American College of Gastroenterology in Philadelphia on Oct. 29.

University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) and the Texas Tech Division of Gastroenterology had an impressive presence at the annual convention of the American College of Gastroenterology held in Philadelphia in October.

Gastroenterologists, Dr. Marc Zuckerman, Dr. Alejandro Robles, Dr. Sherif Elhanafi, Dr. Richard McCallum, GI fellows and medicine residents had over 22 presentations including posters, oral presentations and participation as faculty in a hands-on endoscopy workshop.

Dr. Jesus Guzman, fellow in gastroenterology, won an award for best abstract in the GI bleed category-trainee and gave an oral presentation on gastrointestinal bleeding in patients taking dual anti-platelet therapy after percutaneous coronary intervention.

Dr. Zuckerman demonstrated and taught other gastroenterologist attendees single-balloon enteroscopy, a procedure for which UMC is a referral center.

The latest clinical updates and guidelines and research in the field of gastroenterology were presented at the ACG meeting, attended by over 5,000 gastroenterologists from across the country.

The team did a phenomenal job demonstrating the clinical work being done at UMC on a national stage.



Growth & Resilience Corner

Random Acts of Kindness

In a world where we're often rushing through our busy lives, it's easy to forget the power of a simple act of kindness. This "Random Acts of Kindness" checklist is designed to help spread positivity and goodwill, reminding us that even small gestures can make a big difference in someone's day.

- Compliment a stranger
- Pay for someone's coffee
- Send a thank-you card
- Volunteer your time
- Write a positive review for a local business

For free and confidential counseling
call or text (915)294-6321.



Top Five UMC Headlines

News From The Last Quarter



UMC Foundation Celebrates 10 Years of Car Seat Safety Program

The UMC Foundation celebrated ten years of its Car Seat Safety Program in September and announced its eighth year of partnership with El Paso Health. El Paso Health donated \$60,000 to the program, which provides Borderland families with installation instruction and child passenger safety education. The sponsorship will allow for the purchase of conventional car seats and car seats for children with special needs who cannot travel safely in a conventional car seat.



scan for more



UMC's ICU Creates New Local Chapter

UMC's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has established the first local chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) in El Paso, a groundbreaking achievement for the region's healthcare community. This new chapter highlights UMC's ICU team's commitment to providing exceptional care, fostering professional growth and leading the way in critical care nursing innovation.



scan for more



UMC Holds Annual Nursing Symposium

UMC's Nursing Education Department hosted its 2024 Nursing Shared Governance Conference in December. The Annual Nursing Shared Governance Conference is a day dedicated to celebrating and advancing the principles of collaboration, empowerment and innovation in nursing. This year's theme, "Rising Together We Will Lift Each Other Up," reflects the spirit of unity and collective growth that defines shared governance.



scan for more



62 UMC Nurses Complete Professional Clinical Program

Congratulations to the 62 UMC nurses who completed the 2024 Professional Clinical Program! This was the largest group of nurses to participate in the program. The Professional Clinical Program is designed to recognize the professional nurse for advanced performance and leadership at the bedside. We are so proud of our nurses who completed this amazing accomplishment!



scan for more



UMC Participates in Trauma Conference at Texas Tech

UMC participated in the 25th Annual Rio Grande Trauma Conference and Pediatric Update hosted by Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso's Department of Surgery and the Office of Continuing Medical Education. Dr. Alan Tyroch, UMC's Chief of Surgery & Trauma Medical Director, and Lydia Camacho, UMC's Administrative Director of Trauma Services, were keynote speakers who spoke about trauma care.



scan for more



Welcome, New Associates!



Alexis Samble
Health Services Clerk

Maria Hernandez
Outreach Coordinator

Olivia Navarro
Outreach Coordinator

Gloria Contreras
Case Manager

Dalila Barnes
Case Manager

Mercedes Gutierrez
Utilization Review Tech

Marlicia Armstrong
Complaint & Appeals Clerk

STAR Awards

Jose Chavira has been with El Paso Health for 2.5 years and exemplifies empathy and compassion when assisting our providers. Jose displays a positive attitude, gets along with everyone within the organization and always puts in the extra effort in assisting our providers. He plays a pivotal roll in our entire organization.



Community Outreach

On Tuesday, Nov. 26, El Paso Health proudly completed its annual Operation Thanksgiving Dinner, a true labor of love, providing meals with turkey and fixings to 200 members and their families. Over 40 Associates gathered to package meal baskets on Monday, and then 25 volunteer teams fanned out to the far reaches of El Paso and Hudspeth counties to hand-deliver whole turkey meals Tuesday morning.



CARES Ambassadors Collaborate To Further UMC's Values



CARE Ambassadors met for a retreat where they brainstormed ways to ensure UMC operates under its CARE values of Community, Accountability, Respect and Excellence. As a CARE Ambassador, these individuals serve as a representative in their respective departments and help increase patient satisfaction and Associate engagement.

New Managers Train For Success

Congratulations to the newest graduates of the UMC Training Tracks program, a specialized program created to assist new managers who have been promoted from within UMC or who have recently joined UMC.

This year's graduates are:

Lucy Almeralla
 Alex Anaya
 Baltazar Banning
 Ana Barbour
 Laura Brown
 Victoria Brunsink
 Diana Carreon
 Alexandria Chamberlain
 Gabriel De Los Santos
 Marcos Diaz De Leon
 Patricia Duran
 June Duron
 Miguel Estala
 Norma Gonzalez
 Sara Gonzalez
 Amber Herrera
 Sabrina Ibarra

Cynthia Lara
 Julio Luevanos
 Armando Montanez
 Andrea Ortiz
 German Picazo
 Adriel Reveles
 Beatrice Rincon
 Naomi Rodriguez
 Mi Amor Rodriguez
 Lizette Salinas
 Summer Stout
 Isaac Valles
 Pedro Velez
 Ana Viera
 Claudia Woods
 Sarah Yglecias-Fragoso



Congratulations to the UMC Training Tracks graduates of Fall 2024!

Letters Of Gratitude

UMC Associates provide excellent care to tens of thousands of patients every year. We are fortunate to receive letters of gratitude from our patients and their families. Below are two we recently received that we'd like to share with our UMC family.

November 4, 2024

Ronnie Baker

R. Jacob Cintron
Chief Executive Officer
University Medical Center
4815 Alameda Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79905

Dear R. Jacob Cintron,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the care and attention Dr. Rolando Lindo Jr and his team have provided me. I been with Dr. Lindo since 2021.

Dr. Lindo has gone above and beyond to ensure my health and well-being throughout this difficult period. From the initial diagnosis to the follow-up treatments and beyond, he has always been able to provide me with the utmost level of care and compassion.

His attention to detail and dedication to my health is something I will always be thankful for. No matter the hour, he has always ensured that I was taken care of, and nothing has been overlooked. I am so grateful Dr. Lindo would follow-up with a phone call to check on me to see how I am doing.

On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to thank him for all the work he has done. His efforts have been instrumental in my recovery and I wholeheartedly appreciate everything he has done. I am so thankful the University Medical Center of El Paso has become the best medical center in El Paso and I am lucky enough to be able to use the University Medical Center.

Sincerely,


Ronnie Baker

To whom it may concern,

On November 29, 2024, I brought my mother to the UMC Emergency Room for a fractured wrist. I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the exceptional care and professionalism we experienced during our visit.

From the start, the security staff and admitting personnel demonstrated a high level of professionalism. The medical team, including doctors and nurses, attended to my mother with care and urgency, ensuring that I understood every step of the process.

Among all the amazing staff, one individual stood out - Ms. Evon Bradley, the social worker. Ms. Bradley was incredibly caring, focused, and proactive. She asked insightful questions, took detailed notes, and truly listened to our concerns. She not only provided helpful resources and contacts but also went the extra mile by making phone calls on our behalf.

Despite it being the day after Thanksgiving, Ms. Bradley's diligence and persistence were remarkable. Through her efforts, including sending texts and following up, she was able to connect with someone who could assist us with my mother's needs. Her commitment didn't end there -she even followed up with me a few days later to check on our progress.

Because of Ms. Bradley's dedication, my mother is now in a much better situation. Her compassion, professionalism, and determination truly make her an asset to her team and to UMC.

This experience has reminded me that there are still genuinely good people in the world. I am deeply grateful to Ms. Evon Bradley and the entire UMC team for their outstanding care and support.

Sincerely,
Jaime H. Calanche

THANK YOU, EL PASO!

2024 Bond Approved



Improvements to the UMC Campus

Additional improvements to the hospital will address upgrades to operating rooms, imaging, parking and infrastructure.



Burn Center and Critical Care Beds

Additional beds and operating rooms.




Expanded Healthcare Access Points

Construction of new clinical facilities in central El Paso focused on geriatric care and additional surgical and rehabilitation facilities.



First Comprehensive Cancer Center in El Paso

The development of the first comprehensive cancer center in El Paso, in coordination with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso.



El Pasoans Approve \$396.6 Million Bond For UMC's Healthcare Expansion

El Paso voters approved a \$396.6 million bond for University Medical Center (UMC) of El Paso with 65% support on the November ballot. The bond will fund critical expansions and enhancements at UMC, aiming to fill healthcare gaps and meet growing patient needs in the region.

Key Projects Funded by the Bond:

1. UMC Campus Improvements

One-third of bond funds will be used to enhance UMC's ability to meet capacity needs and add new technology to imaging and operating room facilities.

2. Comprehensive Cancer Center

The first of its kind in the region, UMC will partner in building a comprehensive cancer center that will allow patients to seek treatment closer to home.

3. Burn Center Development

El Paso lacks a local burn care program, and patients are often transferred out of the city for specialized care. The bond will increase care capability by adding additional operating rooms, critical care beds, and enhanced burn care units.

4. Expansion of Healthcare Access Points

To accommodate the growing population and increasing healthcare demands, the bond will expand access points across the region. This effort is aimed at making preventative and acute care more accessible for patients across the region.

The bond will increase property taxes by approximately \$6 per month for an average El Paso homeowner. Funds will strictly cover the construction and equipment costs for the projects, without being used for staff salaries or ongoing operations.

Volunteer Awards Luncheon Returns!

For the first time since the pandemic, the annual Volunteer Awards Luncheon resumed and recognized 255 volunteers who dedicate their time to UMC. Four junior volunteers became the first recipients of the 20+ Club's new scholarship program.



UMC Thanks Community Partners



El Paso County Judge, Ricardo Samaniego, spoke about UMC's evolution during the luncheon event.

University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) celebrated its rich history and ongoing commitment to excellence in healthcare with a special luncheon for community partners. The event highlighted UMC's evolution from its founding in 1915 as El Paso County General Hospital to its transformation into a leader in medical innovation. Key milestones were acknowledged, including UMC's designation as a Level 1 Trauma Center, its role in major public health responses, and its continuous pursuit of advanced medical technologies such as robotic surgery, AI-powered diagnostics, and a world-class Mobile Stroke Unit.

The luncheon also emphasized UMC's deep-rooted connection with the community, captured in the theme "Caring Across Generations." Stories of multi-generational families working at UMC underscored the hospital's lasting impact on both staff and patients. Additionally, the recent approval of a bond proposal was recognized as a pivotal step in advancing healthcare access, funding projects like a comprehensive cancer center and a burn center. The event served as both a reflection on UMC's past achievements and a commitment to its future, ensuring continued innovation and compassionate care for generations to come.

On The Road To Better Health

University Medical Center of El Paso's (UMC) Mobile Health Clinic made a pit stop at the Outlet Shoppes at El Paso this past October for 'The More You Know Expo.' Our UMC Outpatient Clinics' staff provided free health checks and flu vaccines for visitors as they shopped and enjoyed the day with family and friends.

Many stopped to schedule their Telehealth appointments, mammograms and learn about the many services UMC's Outpatient Clinics offer at our various locations across El Paso. From pediatrics to geriatrics, we are happy to help you prioritize your health!



The UMC Clinic team offered free health checks to all in attendance.

Donation For Diabetes Care Management Program To Help Improve Patients' Health

University Medical Center of El Paso Foundation (UMCF) was awarded a \$422,692 grant from the Paso del Norte Health Foundation to launch Diabetes Care Plus, an innovative three-year care management program.

This initiative is designed to assist patients with diabetes who are struggling to manage their condition effectively. UMC of El Paso currently serves over 11,000 patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus. With this grant, a clinical pharmacist will work closely with physicians to coordinate patient care, provide personalized education, and ensure thorough follow-up in order to help patients' adherence to their treatment plans.

"Diabetes Care Plus will enable UMC of El Paso to implement evidence-based care management strategies for individuals facing challenges with their diabetes treatment plan," said Dr. Juan Castillo, the attending endocrinologist for the grant program.

University Medical Center of El Paso's (UMC) Northeast Outpatient Clinic will manage the program, which will serve as a pilot program to enhance care for individuals with diabetes and improve their health outcomes.



Dr. Juan Castillo, UMC Endocrinologist, speaks at the UMC Foundation event held at the main campus this past November.

UMC's 5k Run, Walk Promotes Health

UMC's annual 5k run, 1-mile walk, and kids dash returned as a huge success in October.

Roughly 400 people showed up to UMC's annual Better Health 5K Run, 1-Mile Walk and Kids Dash, and it was a great success!

From the upbeat warm-up to the race and awards ceremony, it was a morning full of energy and fun!

Congratulations to all of our participants who ran, walked and dashed to promote better health.

We had a blast!



Local Sports



Hockey

El Paso Rhinos 2025 series:

Jan 10 & 11 vs Odessa Jackalopes

Jan 31 & Feb 1 vs Amarillo Wranglers

Feb 7 & 8 vs Colorado Grit

Feb 14 & 15 vs Odessa Jackalopes

Feb 21 & 22 vs vs Lone Star Brahmas

Mar 14 & 15 vs Oklahoma Warriors

Mar 21 & 22 vs New Mexico Ice Wolves

Mar 28 & 29 vs Corpus Christi Ice Rays



Basketball

UTEP Men's Basketball 2025:

Jan 2 vs LA Tech, 7 p.m.

Jan 4 vs Sam Houston, 7 p.m.

Jan 11 vs NM State, 7 p.m.

Jan 23 vs Jax State, 7 p.m.

Jan 25 vs Kennesaw State, 7 p.m.

Feb 13 vs FIU, 7 p.m.

Feb 15 vs Shreveport Mudbugs

Feb 27 vs WKU, 7 p.m.

Mar 1 vs Middle Tennessee, 2 p.m.



Basketball

UTEP Women's Basketball 2025:

Jan 16 vs Liberty, 7 p.m.

Jan 18 vs FIU, 12:30 p.m.

Jan 30 vs WKU, 7 p.m.

Feb 1 vs Middle Tennessee, 1 p.m.

Feb 8 vs NM State, 2 p.m.

Feb 20 vs Kennesaw State, 7 p.m.

Feb 22 vs Jax State, 1 p.m.

Mar 6 vs Sam Houston, 7 p.m.

Feb 22 vs LA Tech, 2 p.m.

Tricks, Treats Served Up At UMC Cafeteria For Halloween

We got quite the treat in our cafeteria this Halloween, where Associates competed in our annual Halloween costume contest.

The creativity of these costumes was astounding!

Congratulations to all of our winners.

Individual winners:

First Place: Australian Olympic break-dancer Rachael "Raygun" – Josh Paulette, Business Development

Second Place: Ring Master – Bonnie Browning, EPCH Compliance

Third Place: Selena – Aisha Gonzalez, Volunteer Services

Group winners:

First Place: La Abuelita y sus Nietos, UMC Lab

Second Place: The Price Is Right, Revenue Cycle Management

Third Place: Inside Out, Medical Staff Services

Thank you to everyone who participated and enjoyed the event!



First Place: Australian Olympic break-dancer, Rachael "Raygun" – Josh Paulette, Business Development



Second Place: Ring Master – Bonnie Browning, EPCH Compliance Development



Third Place: Selena – Aisha Gonzalez, Volunteer Services



First Place: La Abuelita y sus Nietos, UMC Lab



Second Place: The Price Is Right, Revenue Cycle Management



Third Place: Inside Out, Medical Staff Services

Mind Matters: UMC Geriatricians Discuss Dementia



On Dec. 19, University Medical Center of El Paso's (UMC) Geriatricians, Dr. Jose Luis Aguirre and Dr. Emmanuel Enriquez, discussed the topic of dementia on the El Paso Medical Society's December edition of the El Paso Physician program.

Our geriatricians know the importance of providing specialized care for our older adult patients and sat down to answer questions most caregivers typically have about symptoms and treatment.

To view the show, visit:
www.pbs.org/show/el-paso-physician/



Upcoming UMC And Foundation Events

UMC Events

- Jan. 28 EPCHD Lunch & Learn
(Maximize Your Strength and Fitness Gains at Home or the Office)
- Jan. 29 EPCHD The Biggest Loser weigh-in
- Jan. 31 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Feb.
- 10-19 EPCHD Wellness Challenge (Mindful Movement)
- Feb. 14 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Feb. 18 EPCHD Lunch & Learn (The Effects of Trauma- Part I)
- Feb. 28 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Mar. 4 EPCHD Lunch & Learn (Holistic Approached to Trauma- Part II)
- Mar. 5 UMC/EPCH Book Club Meeting
- Mar. 12 EPCHD The Biggest Loser mid weigh-in
- Mar. 14 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Mar.
- 17-26 EPCHD Wellness Challenge (Mindful Eating)
- Mar. 18 EPCHD Lunch & Learn (Effective Trauma Interventions- Part III)
- Mar. 19 EPH Spring Wellness Challenge Check-in
- Mar. 20 UMC/EPCH Spring Wellness Challenge Check-in
- Mar. 27 EPCHD Lunch & Learn (Rising Temperatures, Rising Risks)
- Mar. 28 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Apr. 11 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Apr.
- 14-23 EPCHD Wellness Challenge (Walk with Your Team)

- Apr. 15 EPCHD Lunch & Learn
(Setting Boundaries and Assertive Communication)
- Apr. 25 UMC/EPCH CARES Xtras Pantry
- Apr. 30 EPCHD The Biggest Loser final weigh-in

Foundation Events

- Jan. 29 CMN Panda Express Paint Day
- Feb. 7 CMN Kendra Scott Valentines Pop Up Payroll deduction event
- Feb. 10 CMN Kendra Cares for patients and caregivers
- Feb. 11 UMC Oncology Monthly Sale and Awareness Event
- Feb. 22 El Paso Health Car Seat Safety Event - NHC East Joe Battle
- Feb. 28 CMN Peter Piper Heart Pizza Campaign
- Mar. 6 EPCH Art sale event
- Mar. 11 UMC Oncology Monthly Sale and Awareness Event
- Mar. 18 CMN Annual Recognition Luncheon
- Mar. 20 CMN Dairy Queen Dip it for Kids
- Mar. 22 El Paso Health Car Seat Safety Event - Location TBD
- Apr. 10 CMN Children's Hospital week
- Apr. 11 UMC Oncology Monthly Sale and Awareness Event
- Apr. 19 El Paso Health Car Seat Safety Event - Location TBD
- Apr. 30 CMN Pro Radiothon English and Spanish
- Apr. 30 CMN Ace Hardware Round Up Campaign

Associates Deck The Halls, Spruce Up UMC For Holidays

December brought a whole week of fun-filled holiday cheer for the entire El Paso County Hospital District (EPCHD). The festivities began on Dec. 9 with a Flannel Spirit Day, followed by the much anticipated 'Jingle Mingle Breakfast' in the UMC Cafeteria. The cafeteria was full of holiday cheer as Associates enjoyed a delicious free breakfast and others competed for the best decorated wreath and ugliest holiday sweater.

This year, the Winter Craft Fair was moved from the UMC cafeteria to the Annex parking lot to accommodate many new booths selling wreaths, jewelry, baked goods and unique gifts.

Associates enjoyed getting in the holiday spirit and buying local!



Hospital District Celebrates Successful Year At Starlight!



Associates from UMC, El Paso Children's Hospital, and El Paso Health dressed to the nines for this year's End of Year Celebration at the Starlight Event Center.

The sold-out event began with a dinner followed by dancing, a silent auction and raffles.

Thank you for making 2024 an amazing year! Here's to an even better year in 2025!



Things To Do In El Paso

January



1/25 The Highway 28 Wine Tour will start from 12 to 6 p.m. and consist of three boutique, estate winery stops. Enjoy savory wines, live music, photos, and a time to relax. mvwineandbrewtours.com



1/26 Wine Down Socorro will be offering a sourdough bread class from 1 – 3 p.m. The sweet session will be step-by-step with an instructor who explains everything thoroughly and makes it fun to work on your bread skills! blumoonartstudio.com

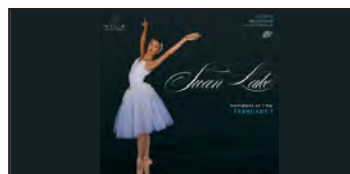


1/30 – 2/6 Join the El Paso Opera & St. Rogers Depot as they present Roméo & Juliette! Many show dates available. epopera.org



1/31 Felipe Esparza is bringing his "At My Leisure World Tour" to the El Paso Plaza Theatre with two showings, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. ticketmaster.com

February



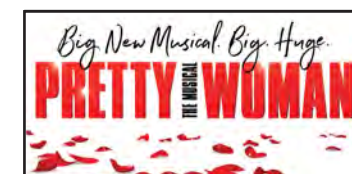
2/1 & 2 The Nylia Ballet Academy will be performing the enchanting love story of Swan Lake at the UTEP Magoffin Auditorium. ticketmaster.com



2/15 & 16 Shen Yun returns to El Paso with their spectacular and cultural inspired performance. shenyun.com



2/26 Bring the family to the Don Haskins Center to see The Harlem Globetrotters at their 2025 World Tour featuring amazing basketball tricks and more. ticketmaster.com



2/28 – 3/2 Pretty Woman: The Musical will be stopping at the Plaza Theatre with four show dates. elpasolive.com

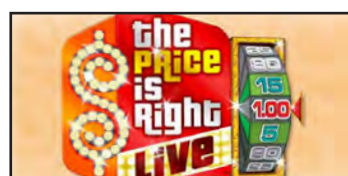
March



3/1 & 2 Monster Jam is back! Experience the thrilling live event at the UTEP Sunbowl. ticketmaster.com



3/8 Visit the War Eagle Air Museum and attend the Spring Fest Car Show featuring 400+ cars, 40+ aircrafts, vendors and more! lowclass.co



12/31 The Price Is Right in El Paso! The classic television game live stage show (non-televised) will be featuring an array of prizes and laughs. ticketmaster.com



3/22 Jo Koy returns to the UTEP Don Haskins Center with his "Just Being Koy Tour". ticketmaster.com

Brain Games

How well do you know UMC? Test your knowledge below.

G	E	R	N	C	G	E	N	V	E	M	T	H	G
E	S	C	L	H	E	N	V	O	N	E	D	T	G
O	A	E	E	E	V	E	A	L	D	U	E	L	R
A	H	Y	E	E	C	H	M	U	O	R	E	A	A
L	N	I	E	R	A	D	N	N	F	I	P	E	D
E	E	V	S	W	R	E	O	T	Y	A	B	H	U
V	E	T	S	E	S	I	M	E	E	Y	R	R	A
E	I	T	U	E	E	D	E	E	A	G	A	E	T
L	Q	R	E	K	A	E	R	R	R	O	I	T	E
O	M	A	A	N	T	C	T	S	S	L	N	T	S
N	I	U	O	T	D	D	A	U	R	O	S	E	A
E	I	M	R	P	I	U	Q	S	N	R	U	B	H
S	G	A	T	S	E	S	R	U	N	U	O	U	P
C	O	S	T	U	M	E	C	O	N	T	E	S	T

TERMS:

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. LEVEL ONE | 5. QMI | 9. GRADUATES | 13. TRAUMA |
| 2. BETTER HEALTH | 6. NSQUIP | 10. CAR SEAT | 14. AACN |
| 3. UROLOGY | 7. CHEER WEEK | 11. END OF YEAR | 15. NURSES |
| 4. DEEP BRAIN | 8. VOLUNTEERS | 12. COSTUME CONTEST | |

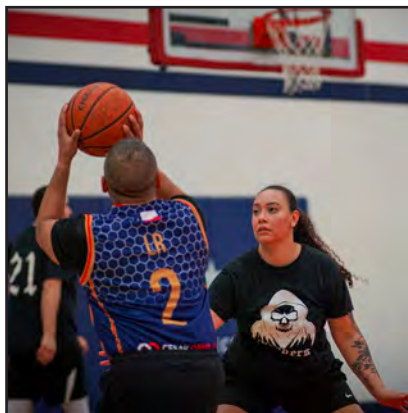
Full Court Press: Associates Lay-Up For Healthy Competition

Teamwork makes the dream work!

Another team comes out on top as this year's El Paso County Hospital District Basketball League champions.

A total of ten teams signed up for the seven week season, which began on Oct. 24.

UMC's Engagement & Associate Experience Department organizes this initiative through the City of El Paso's Parks & Recreation Department to promote wellness for all UMC, El Paso Children's Hospital and El Paso Health Associates.



Community Generosity Propels Change For UMC

University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) Foundation has received many generous donations from donors who support the hospital's mission to provide high-quality care for everyone in the community.

We are thankful for their commitment to our patients and for helping us achieve our mission to Heal, to Serve and to Educate.



Catrinas Catwalk Gala

Thank you to La Nube STEAM Discovery Center, Armando Rodriguez Couture, and all our incredible sponsors who made the Catrinas Catwalk a magical night to remember! Our guests enjoyed a unique evening filled with dinner, a breathtaking fashion show and live music, all in support of a wonderful cause.

Every moment shared contributed to the UMC Foundation of Mexico and TASP, making a real difference in the lives of many.



New Hope and Peace Lutheran Churches Donation

A heartfelt thank you to New Hope and Peace Lutheran Churches for their generous donation of blankets, stuffed animals and phone chargers to support University Medical Center of El Paso's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) Program. These thoughtful gifts will bring comfort and connection to our patients during challenging times. We're grateful for your compassion and commitment to making a difference!



Air Traffic Control and Aviation Atlantic Donation

Thank you to local FAA Air Traffic Controllers and Aviation Atlantic ELP for their generosity in spreading holiday cheer to six UMC patients and families. A long-term illness can result in difficult times for families. The foundation appreciates the compassion, thoughtfulness and care shown for each family this holiday season. Thank you for bringing joy to your fellow El Pasoans and for showing the true spirit of giving.

NEED EXTRA CASH?



UMC is offering referral bonuses for the following positions:

RN-all units (referral must have one (1) or more years of acute care hospital experience), RN Case Manager, Respiratory Therapist (RRT/CRT), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Pharmacist, Electrophysiology Technician, Registered Echocardiography Technician, Paramedic, Cardiac Cath Lab Technician, Certified Surgical Technician, Clinical Dietitian, Certified Coder/Abstractor CCS/RHITCT, Technologist, Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant, MRI Supervisor

Bonus Amounts: \$3,000 Full-Time (FT), \$1,500 Part-time (PT)

The first half of the referral bonus will be paid when the referred Associate completes six (6) months of employment. The second half will be paid when the referred Associate completes one (1) year of employment.



Contact a recruiter at (915) 521-7950 for other qualifying positions and more details or visit the "Associate Referral" link on the intranet's "Applications" page.