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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UMC's West Texas Poison Center Celebrates 30 Years Servicing Borderland

EL PASO, Texas – The West Texas Poison Center (WTPC) at University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) is celebrating 30 years of providing toxicology consultations for the region.

WTPC answers more than 85 calls regarding accidental medication poisonings, snake bites, insect stings and poisonous plants on a daily basis.

In September of 1994, WTPC began its operation at the R.E. Thomason General Hospital Inpatient Pharmacy, a year after the Texas Legislature established the Texas Poison Control Network.

Three years later, The WTPC became the first bilingual (English and Spanish) poison center accredited by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

In 2023, WTPC accomplished an enormous feat, becoming 100-percent certified by the American Association of Poison Control Center.

WTPC operates 24/7 and is an active teaching site for residents, interns and students from Texas Tech, University Health Sciences Center El Paso, The University of Texas at El Paso's School of Pharmacy and William Beaumont Army Medical Center.

"Our Poison Center hotline is a vital resource not only for the residents of West Texas, but to the many healthcare professionals who also call us for advice and guidance with their patients," said Dr. Salvador Baeza, Director of UMC's WTPC. "We look forward to serving our community for many more years."

WTPC services 36 counties across West Texas, including El Paso, Midland/Odessa and San Angelo.

If you think someone has been poisoned, call WTPC right away at 1-800-222-1222.

To learn more about the West Texas Poison Center, visit umcelpaso.org/PoisonCenter.

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About WTPC: The West Texas Poison Center (WTPC) at University Medical Center of El Paso is America's first 24-hour bilingual poison control center certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers and is an integral partner in the Texas Poison Center Network. WTPC is designed to serve 36 counties of West Texas in Public Health Regions 9 and 10. This region has a population of 1.35 million people and encompasses about 24% of the state's land mass, 61,434 square miles. The West Texas region is unique because the majority of the population is concentrated in El Paso, Midland/Odessa and San Angelo. A call to the Poison Center can safely save long and unnecessary drives to area emergency rooms. Our entire staff is bilingual in English and Spanish to provide the highest quality medical information to all of our patients, their caregivers, families, and healthcare providers. We assist area educators, health care providers, emergency personnel, public health professionals, and law enforcement agencies with any items imported from Mexico.

About UMC: For 109 years, University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) has been providing exceptional, high quality care for the entire El Paso region. UMC is home to the region's only Level I Trauma Center, the only Comprehensive Level I Stroke Center, and the only Level IV Maternal Critical Care Center. UMC's mission is to Heal, to Serve and to Educate. For more UMC News, go to: <http://www.umcelpaso.org> (News Releases at bottom of main page.)