



TEXAS A&M
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 1, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center is pleased to participate in the Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation process. In preparation for the SACS review, we have found that the engagement of the Health Science Center community in the self-study process has significantly added value to our university, and has renewed our commitment to both institutional effectiveness and ongoing quality improvement.

The Health Science Center is a member of The Texas A&M University System, which is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a statewide network of 11 universities, 7 state agencies and a comprehensive health science center. The Health Science Center was first accredited as a separate institution by SACS in 2002. We are a relatively young institution, originally created by the Texas Legislature in 1997 to officially open in 1999. The authorizing legislation set up a multi-campus institution with College Station as the administrative headquarters, joined with off-site campuses in Dallas, Houston, and Temple. Legislation in 1999 also established the Coastal Bend Health Education Center in Corpus Christi as an off-campus site devoted to serving the health care needs of the 19-county Coastal Bend region of Texas. In 2001, additional legislation also created the South Texas Center for Rural Public Health, located in McAllen, as a vehicle for health education outreach programs.

Since that time, the Health Science Center has expanded to include several additional campuses and programs. The Rangel College of Pharmacy and its PharmD program was added in 2006 with authorizing legislation that established its administrative headquarters in Kingsville. In 2007 the College of Medicine received approval from the Texas Legislature and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) to offer its four-year MD program at both the College Station and Temple campuses. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the addition of the College of Nursing and BSN program in 2008. And the Texas Legislature created a Health Science Center multi-disciplinary campus in Round Rock, which opened in 2009. In 2010, a joint PhD in Neurosciences was established with Texas A&M University, and the School of Graduate Studies was defined as a separate academic unit within the Health Science Center.

In addition to providing education for clinicians and scientists, the Health Science Center conducts cutting-edge research, and provides health care to over a million people annually in Central and South Texas, and in the surrounding areas. We are

Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.

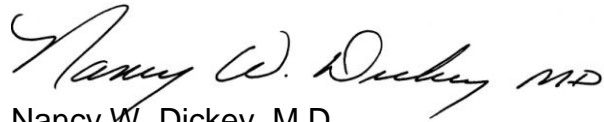
President, Texas A&M Health Science Center and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Texas A&M System

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proud to welcome you and show you what we are doing to advance the state of knowledge in the health sciences, to care for patients, and to transform the lives of our many students from diverse backgrounds and age groups.

The Health Science Center recognizes and appreciates the voluntary efforts of our committed colleagues from peer institutions who assist the Commission on Colleges in this reaffirmation process. On behalf of the many dedicated faculty, staff, administrators, students, and alumni who have participated in the preparation of this report, we welcome your review and we anticipate that you will find that our institution serves a significant role in improving the health of the citizens of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy W. Dickey M.D." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.
President, Texas A&M Health Science Center
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, A&M System