Dear Faculty, Staff and Students:

I am delighted to announce that seven distinguished members of the faculty at the Health Science Center have been selected to receive the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award from the UT System. The award is the foremost teaching honor in the System, and recognizes excellence of the highest degree.

The selectees are:

Y.W. Francis Lam, Pharm.D., professor, Department of Pharmacology. An outstanding scholar and researcher, Dr. Lam also directs various pharmacology courses for dental, doctoral and physician assistant students. All of his courses are active learning experiences, and his innovations in course development have proven to be effective and exemplary.

John Lee, Ph.D., professor, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Biochemistry. Dr. Lee, a member of the faculty for 46 years, believes that teaching is both a privilege and a weighty responsibility. He has introduced novel teaching methods, received student and peer accolades for teaching excellence, and profoundly shaped generations of physicians.

Robert J. Nolan Jr., M.D., professor, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education. For more than 30 years, Dr. Nolan has demonstrated superb performance as an educational leader, innovator, teacher and mentor for medical students, pediatric residents and pediatric subspecialty residents. And he has been recognized as a leader in pediatric graduate medical education on a national level.

Jean Petershack, M.D., professor, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Pediatrics. As clerkship director and associate director of Medical Student Education in the Department of Pediatrics, Dr. Petershack oversees the educational experiences of more than 200 third-year medical students rotating through the department annually. She has demonstrated exemplary skills in curriculum development, role modeling, mentoring, leadership and organizing.

Omid Rahimi, Ph.D., associate professor, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology. Dr. Rahimi has assumed significant responsibility for course design, organization, coordination and evaluation in his department. He is renowned among students for his mastery of teaching, and he is well recognized among his peers as an extraordinary educator and for the quality, and quantity, of his teaching.

Rajeev Suri, M.D., associate professor, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Radiology. Dr. Suri has a passion for and has eagerly promoted resident/medical school education. In his own words: “My teaching philosophy is based on the tenet that a teacher is one who cares, one who promotes education as a two-way street—where the learner conforms to the educator and the educator conforms to the learning requirements of the student.”

Karen Troendle, D.D.S., M.P.H., professor, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. Dr. Troendle has profoundly shaped the School of Dentistry. She was the third woman graduate of the School of Dentistry and the third woman full-time faculty member ever hired. She has been nominated for or received nearly 30 awards and recognitions for teaching excellence from students, her peers and the Health Science Center.

These innovative and inspirational educators are indicative of the culture of teaching excellence for which the Health Science Center is known. This recognition by the Board of Regents is well deserved.

Please join me in congratulating seven eminent educators whose leadership, service and passion for teaching are truly exemplary.

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
President and Professor of Medicine