We propose a Regional Education Health Care and Outreach Research Data Registry (REHCORDR) geared toward improving the health status of communities in South Texas by studying and implementing new interventions to reduce and eliminate health disparities. The REHCORDR will focus on assessing community health needs and building strategies to engage underrepresented groups, minority community organizations and primary care physician practices to develop patient registries, build electronic medical records capabilities and facilitate the access of UT Health San Antonio clinician investigators to patient data for research purposes. South Texas Childhood Obesity Initiative will specifically be used to increase the staff infrastructure required to conduct a large-scale community needs assessment and implement a far-reaching multimedia campaign, as well as provide resources for the design and development of robust multimedia communications and content geared to reduce childhood obesity in these target areas. The entire Lower Rio Grande Border Area is designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area. State appropriations will allow the continuation of effective and efficient dental educational programs designed to improve the quality, number, and mal-distribution of regional oral healthcare providers. These additional state resources will increase access to much needed health care, increase access to health professional education, decrease health disparities of targeted populations, expand community and university partnerships, and expand the workforce in health professions.

Education Enterprise:

3,147 Total Student Enrollment, Fall 2016
- 878 Medical
- 619 Dental
- 897 Nursing
- 487 Health Professions
- 266 Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

898 Total Residents/Fellows, Fall 2016
- 750 Medical Residents
- 148 Postdoctoral/Research Fellows

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Funding Priorities
85th Texas Legislature

2018-2019 BIENNIAL

University of Texas System
Board of Regents
In the past two to three years, Barshop Institute researchers and health care providers have created a Translational Aging Research Program to test and develop interventions to age in good health. Various lifestyle (e.g., nutrition, physical activity, etc.) and pharmacologic (rapamycin, metformin, acarbose, etc.) interventions that are likely have a beneficial impact on aging and associated diseases (Alzheimer’s Disease (AD), diabetes, cancer) are being evaluated. The support will allow us to expand and sustain a subject registry and repository, create community research teams, maintain data management platforms, modernize our translational research infrastructure, train new faculty, and attract the best and the brightest scientists to Texas. Our membership in the Texas Alzheimer’s Research and Care Consortium (TARCC) is a collaboration between six of Texas’ leading medical research institutions to improve early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of AD, is notable as it is reflecting the university’s dedication and intellectual resources and capacity to join other academic institutions in finding life-saving treatments and cures for AD patients and their families.

Laredo and the Webb County Border Region represent a young population with disproportionate number of residents living below the poverty level with limited health care access and a low level of education. This region is repeatedly designated a medically underserved area with a shortage of well-trained health professionals and an abundance of health challenges. Funding is requested to support hiring faculty to teach and supervise students at the Regional Campus Laredo, recruit preceptors (clinical rotation instructors) and clinical training sites, provide community-based education about the physician assistant profession, recruit students from the region, and provide administrative support for the expanded program. The entire Mid Rio Grande Border/Winter Garden Border Areas are designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area as well as a “medically underserved regions” in the U.S. The $1.75 million for the biennium will provide for the expansion of effective and efficient dental residency specialty and dental/dental hygiene educational programs designed to improve the quality, number, and mal-distribution of regional oral healthcare providers. It will also support the campus clinical infrastructure, faculty and staff, and student support services.