

UMC Acquires Border Pediatrics To Strengthen Pediatric Care Throughout Borderland Region

University Medical Center of El Paso has acquired both locations of Border Pediatrics, a longtime provider of high quality pediatric care in El Paso, having served thousands of borderland families. Border Pediatrics will continue its care and remain located at 4500 N. Mesa in west El Paso, and 10211 Alameda in El Paso's lower valley. This new UMC presence provides El Pasoans more options for enhanced pediatric care.

Dr. Ruben R. Roncallo and his medical staff are now UMC Associates and will continue to see patients at both locations. "As the largest public hospital along the US/Mexico border and the only Level 1 trauma center in our region, we need to continually find more ways to bring greater access to care for our community while providing advanced physicians and technologies that ensure a quality of care that is second to none," said Jacob Cintron, UMC President & CEO. "Border Pediatrics ensures we are continuing on that path in our care of younger patients. They will also complement specialty care opportunities with our partner El Paso Children's Hospital." The growth of UMC throughout El Paso continues the vision of UMC's Board of Managers and hospital leadership.



Dr. Ruben R. Roncallo

"I think joining UMC is a great thing for me because I have been involved in the community and El Paso for years and UMC has provided so much support, especially for the free clinic in Canutillo," said Dr. Roncallo, owner of Border Pediatrics as a private practice for 18 years. "For me to be a part of University Medical Center of El Paso, it is going to be a benefit to the community because I'm really involved in the community," adds Dr. Roncallo, "to give this beautiful community all the service they need."

Since Border Pediatrics opened in 2002, Dr. Roncallo and his team of nearly 20 have cared for approximately 70,000 patients from newborn to 18 years. Services include: well visits, school and sports physicals, treatment of ear, sinus and viral infections, skin diseases, asthma and allergies, minor procedures and surgeries, counseling for obesity, ADD, ADHD, Depression, Autism, and more.

Dr. Roncallo completed his pediatric residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHS) in El Paso and held several positions there including chief resident, associate director of pediatric clinics, and clinical instructor. Prior to his residency, Dr. Roncallo attended Universidad Metropolitana in Barranquilla, Colombia. He also spent time in Miami, Florida as a lab technologist with a concentration on hematology, chemistry and bacteriology.

UMC & Yamaha Team Up For Successful ATV Safety Course



The First Group of Riders Receive Instruction

University Medical Center of El Paso in conjunction with Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative and ATV Safety Institute, held the ATV RiderCourse, Saturday, Sept. 26, at San Felipe Park in Fabens, TX. There were both morning and afternoon classes. Two groups of riders aged 12 – 15 received a free helmet and goggles.

The ATV RiderCourse, taught by certified ASI Instructors, provides a fast-paced, half-day, hands-on training session that includes: starting and stopping, quick turns, riding on hills, emergency stops and swerves and riding over obstacles. Students also learned about protective gear, local regulations, places to ride and environmental concerns. The course was

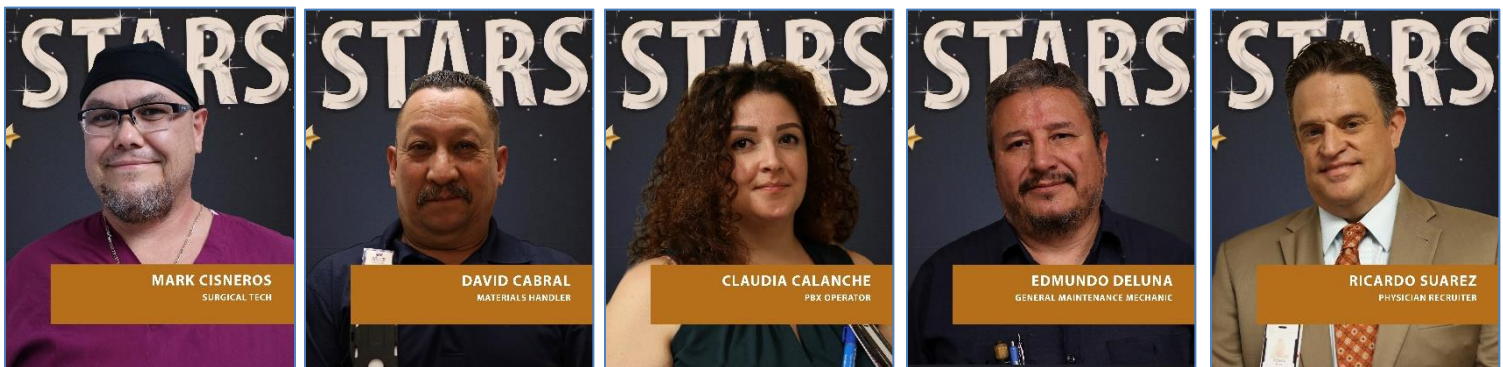
made possible through a grant of \$9,972 awarded to UMC from Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A as part of its Outdoor Access Initiative (www.yamahaoai.com). This grant allows UMC to provide evidence-based ATV safety education and primary injury prevention in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the American College of Surgeons for Level 1 Trauma Centers. UMC will also advocate for the development of properly planned ATV trails to foster safer year-round outdoor recreation which is currently extremely limited within our county for off-highway vehicles.

This program was conceptualized from the research findings of UMC surgeons Alan H. Tyroch, M.D., FACS, FCCM, Professor, Chair of Surgery department at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and Trauma Medical Director of General Surgery, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at UMC; along with Susan F. McLean, MD, Professor, at TTUHSC, Surgical Critical Care Director of General Surgery, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care, at UMC. They recommend all youths consistently wear proper safety gear when riding ATVs to prevent and minimize potential traumatic brain injuries.

UMC Announces 2020 4th Quarter STARS Award Winners

The winners of UMC's 4th Quarter STARS were recognized in different fashion as surprise visits took place at their respective departments. Each quarter, UMC announces the names of five Associates who were nominated by their peers or other Associates for special recognition for their performance excellence and dedication.

STARS = Service, Teamwork, Accountability, Respect, and Safety



In order from left to right, from our Ambulatory Surgery Unit, Mark Cisneros; from our Supply/Distribution Departments, David Cabral; from our Communications Department, Claudia Calanche; from our Engineering Department, Edmundo Deluna; and from our Business Development Department, Ricardo Suarez. Every winner was nominated for their service and putting our patients, hospital, and community before themselves. Congratulations to our 4th Quarter STARS Award recipients!

UMC Prepares El Paso With Drive-Through Flu Vaccinations

University Medical Center of El Paso is conducting a special "drive through" flu vaccination event for all, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 6 and 7 at the El Paso County Coliseum for children and adults (ages 4 and up). El Pasoans can remain in their cars and safely vaccinated for this year's flu season. Most insurance will cover the cost of each vaccination, however for anyone wanting self-pay or uninsured, the cost is only \$10.

This year, the flu season arrives in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic; this year, it's FluVid Season.

- Get your flu vaccination on Oct. 6 and 7 at the El Paso County Coliseum.
- Get your entire family vaccinated for the flu. Stay healthy to keep El Paso Strong.

Wildflower: The Miracle Story Of UMC Patient Jaclyn Pellicotte

Oct. 30, 2018 was a special day for the Pellicotte family. It was their father, Dennis Pellicotte's birthday and the family was to meet for lunch. Sheri Pellicotte, Mom and Principal for Scotsdale Elementary School on the eastside was texting her daughter, 20-year-old Jaclyn to make sure they all arrived on time.

"As principal, every time I leave the campus, something happens at school and I'm needed, so I was only going to take an hour and dash out to celebrate Dennis's birthday with our son, Jacob, Jaclyn and her boyfriend, David," said Sheri. "Suddenly Jaclyn stopped responding to my texts. I couldn't figure it out because she always answers my texts fast."

Jaclyn and David had been involved in a traffic accident that would leave Jaclyn with traumatic brain injuries, and sent immediately to University Medical Center of El Paso's Scherr Legate Level 1 Trauma Center. The only one of its kind in a 280-mile radius, a Level I Trauma Center means the hospital is committed to maintaining a full-range of specialties and resources available 24 hours a day.



Jaclyn's First Night at UMC

"Jaclyn didn't have her purse with her and her identification was in her mobile phone and so they didn't know her name or anything," said Sheri. "I'm not sure, but I think they named her 'Wildflower' until David was able to give them our information and they contacted us," added Sheri. "Jaclyn had beautiful, long flowing blond hair, so they gave her that name," she said, smiling.

Dr. Susan McLean was the attending physician when Jaclyn was brought into the Emergency Department. Jaclyn's first surgery was performed by neurosurgeon Dr. Fredric Lax at UMC's Level 1 Trauma Center to remove the right side of her skull. She was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), but the pressure kept rising. Six days later, her left side of the skull was removed and the pressure went down.

Taken to Intermediate Critical Care (IMCU), Sheri said Jaclyn began tracking her parents with her eyes. Jaclyn had a trachea and broken right femur that they would later operate on to repair and she received a feeding tube.

"Jaclyn had about 15 to 16 surgeries and then she was stable," said Sheri. "She was then taken to the Women's Surgical Unit which is a beautiful area. Jaclyn was sleeping a lot and it was unknown why?"

CT Scans showed pressure building in her brain again. By this time, the left and right sides of her skull were back so Jaclyn returned to ICU for surgery to remove the flaps.

A close family, rooted deep in a faith in God, the Pellicottes did not listen when told Jaclyn would never walk or speak and that the family should find an assisted living facility for her care. Sheri and Dennis knew they would find another way. “We will find a brain injury place to help us,” said Sheri. “I knew she would be restored.”

A friend suggested Sheri consider taking Jaclyn to Houston’s TIRR Memorial Hermann, the best rehabilitation hospital in Texas and second in the nation, offering inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation for brain injury, spinal cord injury, and neurologic disease. In addition to being a principal, Sheri also taught a group fitness class at Gold’s Gym in El Paso. “I don’t know why, but during class one evening, I asked if anyone knew anything about TIRR?,” she said. “A woman in class said her daughter worked there. I had to smile and know this was my answer to what kept going through my mind ‘preparing a path’, so I knew we were being led.”



UMC Rehab’s Albert Valadez Works with Jaclyn

Phone calls were made to TIRR and soon Sheri was on a flight with Southwest Airlines to Houston. Dennis and Jaclyn flew to TIRR thanks to Jaclyn’s maternal grandfather whose best friend, a man the family called “Uncle Harley” had a daughter named Amber Mizer. Amber was co-owner of Elite Medical Transport, who flew Jaclyn and Dennis to Houston, charging only for fuel and the pilot’s fee.

In May, the family returned to El Paso and began to search for a place for Jaclyn to continue her work in rehab therapy. Friends who Sheri and Dennis stayed

with in Houston had a nephew who worked at Mentis Rehab in Austin, but was moving to the Mentis Rehab location in El Paso. Jim Moody would become her therapist. Once they were back home, Sheri also received a call from Cindy Gee, a speech therapist at YISD, who came on her off hours and without any fee, helped Jaclyn learn to move her tongue.”

In July of 2019, Sheri woke up hearing noises coming from Jaclyn’s bedroom. Sheri went into her room and leaned in to her daughter and told her she loved her. “Jaclyn whispered, ‘I love you.’ I stood there, speechless,” said Sheri. “Nine months after her accident, she said ‘I love you.’”

Dennis, Sheri, and their son, Jacob continued to give therapy. Jaclyn was able to walk with help and had started to take steps by herself with Mom and Dad right beside her! They knew they needed more help. Jim Moody recommended University Medical Center of El Paso’s Rehabilitative Services

Department where Jaclyn could receive physical therapy and speech-language services. The department's goal is to help the patients achieve maximum function and independence.

"We have been in therapy since August of this year and we have seen a huge improvement overall," said Sheri. "We want to thank all the nurses, physicians, surgeons, as well as everyone at UMC. We are thankful to be back at University Medical Center of El Paso where we began. It means that my daughter has another chance at life again because without UMC's drive and knowledge to save her life, she might not have survived!"

Sheri said even UMC's CEO, Jacob Cintron played a part in her daughter's healing. Yvonne Acosta, Administrative Director of Medical Staff and Risk Management is a friend of the Pellicottes and who visited Jaclyn every day. "Our daughters played volleyball," said Sheri. "Yvonne introduced us to Jacob. He would come by and ask us if we needed anything? He was so gracious and genuine. One day Dennis told him, 'Yes, I'd like to ask that you look at the chairs in the ICU waiting room,'" Dennis said. "I told him we had spent many a night in those chairs and they were so uncomfortable. 'Sit down and try it out,'" Dennis added. "He did!" he adds, laughing, "And he said, 'You're right!'"

Later on Sheri traveled with Jaclyn to speak to a family in ICU and she noticed the former chairs in the waiting area were replaced with newer, more comfortable ones!

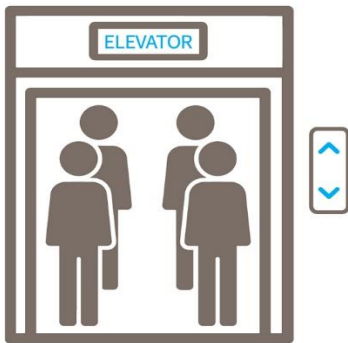
The hospital's occupational therapists are especially close to the Pellicotte family's heart and they are: Veronica Chavez, OTR, OTD; Bianca Vigliante, PT, DPT; Mario Castoronay, PTA and finally, Albert Valadez, PTA who was also in ICU with Jaclyn when she first arrived at UMC. Too many to mention, but Sheri also thanks Ezra Aguirre, Cert. RN II-CC, Daniel Parada, RN, Critical Care (ICU) Jessica Ortiz, Acute Adult Nurse Practitioner, Neuroscience, and Paul Collins, RN (ICU).

Today Jaclyn can walk 20 steps on her own and she is able to have conversations. TIRR wanted Jaclyn to return this past March for an unveiling. She is a success story. "But COVID-19 happened," said Sheri. "They wanted to do the unveiling on ZOOM," she adds, smiling, "but we said no thank you. Jaclyn said she wants to walk in to the ceremony and when she does, we know the timing like everything in this journey of recovery will be perfect."



The Pellicotte Family this past Christmas Season

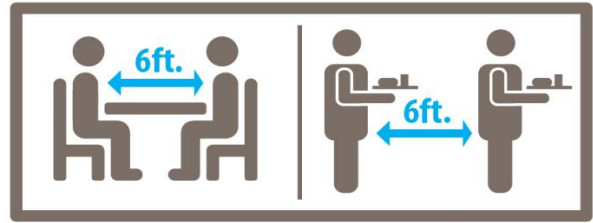
**No More Than Four People
Per Elevator
SOCIAL DISTANCING
REQUIRED**



**Máximo De Cuatro Personas
En El Elevador
ES OBLIGATORIO MANTENER
LA SANA DISTANCIA**



REMINDER TO ALL:



When dining or standing in line at either the UMC Cafeteria or Bistro, you must observe all social distancing requirements.

Do not sit close together.

Do not move furniture to accommodate each other.

Your actions affect the actions of others.

These requirements apply to breakroom dining as well.

Please set the example by doing what's right for everyone.

