



UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OF EL PASO

January 9, 2015

Happy New Year: I hope each of you and your loved ones had a peaceful, safe and restful holiday. My family and I took to the road and explored the beauty of our sister state, New Mexico. Although it was a bit cold, the natural offerings of the Land of Enchantment were spectacular. I am happy to be back and looking forward to an exciting 2015. As many of you know, this year marks the centennial of our organization. Throughout this year, we will share with you and our community the many stories of our success throughout the last century.

First Baby of 2015: UMC rang in the New Year with a scream, literally! Alexa Sofia, was the first baby born in El Paso for 2015. The 6-pound, 14-ounce baby girl was delivered naturally in UMC's Women's Pavilion at exactly 12:01 a.m. It seems that little Alexa was eager to join the New Year celebrations. You see, her parents were not expecting her for another 10 days. En route to an end-of-the-year church service, her mother went into labor and instead headed to UMC. Hours later, and in the New Year, Alexa made her entrance into the world -- giving her family much more cause for celebration in 2015 and every new year to come. Welcome, Alexa Sofia!



New Team Member: I am pleased to announce that Ryan Mielke has joined our team as the new Director of Public Affairs. Ryan joins us with more than 15 years of marketing, public affairs and communications management experience, having worked in both the public and private sectors. He will lead our Public Affairs team in the coming year and will ensure you and our community continues to be informed about the quality care we provide to El Paso. If you see Ryan anywhere on our campus or in our community, please take a moment to welcome him aboard.



Flu Shot: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that during the past couple of weeks, 43 states have experienced high or widespread flu activity. Texas is one of the 43 states that the CDC identified. Locally, the Department of Public Health reported that as of the second week of December, 168 more cases of flu had been confirmed than at the same time the previous year (2013). Those increases correspond with what we're seeing here at UMC. Our Neighborhood Healthcare Centers and Emergency Department are seeing more cases of flu each day.

The flu vaccine is the first and best line of defense against the potentially deadly virus. The CDC recommends that people who have not yet received their flu vaccine do so, especially those 65 and older and young children. It's not too late, flu activity peaks between December and February and can continue as late as May. The vaccine is available at any of our centers throughout the El Paso region (East, Ysleta, Fabens, Crossroads) by calling 790-5700 to set-up a convenient appointment. The centers are open after work until 8 p.m. but these slots fill fast so make an appointment today. For more information on a center nearest to you [click here](#).

On a related note, UMC ended 2014 having vaccinated over 99.82% of the Medical Center's Associates and Medical Staff. That's noteworthy because vaccinating our Associates not only protects them and their families, but also our patients. Our Occupational Health team worked from September thru the end of December to achieve this feat. Good job team!

Weekend Drive: This weekend is a good opportunity to recover from the New Year's first full week by gathering the family and doing something for those in need. The Martin Luther King Food Drive is a citywide effort to restock our city's food pantries. All this weekend, canned and other nonperishable food items can be dropped off at City Hall's One Stop Shop at 300 North Campbell Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The food will then be collected, sorted and distributed among agencies serving the less fortunate, including the Salvation Army, the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, El Paso Rescue Mission, and others.

How 'Bout Them Cowboys! The Cowboys are in the playoffs! Yes, it was a close one last Sunday against the Lions, but the 'Boys are looking to get to this year's Super Bowl in Arizona. But, before that, they'll have to get past the Green Bay Packers, their conference rivals, on the *frozen tundra* at Lambeau Field in Wisconsin. It should be a great game; tune in Sunday at 11:05 a.m. on FOX. Also, this Monday night is the final game of the college football season when the Oregon Ducks take on the Ohio State Buckeyes in the first ever college football playoff championship game. Action starts at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN. Go Ducks!

Have a great weekend. - Jim



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