Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month

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Scan 2-D code for USAISR web site link
“Optimizing Combat Casualty Care”

Hello ISR,

Before looking forward, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and affection for the Institute’s Department of the Army Civilians. These crucial Army Professionals uniquely bore the burdens of the Government shutdown and furlough. Most of our DA Civilian brothers and sisters will continue to bear burdens of pay freezes and exclusions from bonus programs. Despite these burdens, our DA Civilians continued to excel and set a high example for the rest of us to emulate. My hope and prayers are that we have seen the end of furloughs and we can focus more narrowly on our mission: “Optimizing Combat Casualty Care.”

There is a lot happening during the month of November: Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Native American Heritage Month. Veterans Day is on November 11 and MG Caravalho authorized me to extend our observance with a training holiday on November 8. Veterans Day is very important because it gives us the opportunity to recognize and give thanks to our veterans who served during war and peace. Countless Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines sacrificed night and day for our great country and helped make it what it is today. This federal holiday is not just a day off, it is meant for us to show our respect for what our veterans have done for our country. As we observe this day, let us remember the warriors who are still in the fight. To all veterans, past and present, I thank you for your service and sacrifice. I could not be prouder to be in uniform and to be an American.

This year, Thanksgiving is on the 28th. Since 1789 when George Washington proclaimed the last Thursday of November as the Thanksgiving date, we have been celebrating this holiday to pause and be thankful for the blessings of life. Thanksgiving Day is more than just parades, football, and turkeys. It is a day for us to spend with our family and friends and be thankful for all that we have, especially our freedom. This is also a time to make new friends. Joint Base San Antonio has programs where you can adopt a Soldier/Airman for the day and share this special occasion with someone who is not able to spend the day with their family or friends. As members of the military, we know how difficult it can be to spend time away from family and friends. If you are able, consider sharing this special occasion with a fellow service member. I’m sure that they will be thankful.

November is also Native American Heritage Month. It is important for us to recognize the contributions of Native Americans to America and celebrate the diversity of our country and military. From the Revolutionary War to Operation Enduring Freedom, Native Americans have served our country. In the 1990s there were about 10,000 Native Americans serving in the Army and about 160,000 veterans. This figure represents almost 10 percent of all Native Americans. Take time to honor the contributions of Native Americans to our nation and our military. It is our diversity that keeps our country strong and our military the best in the world.

November is a busy month. Be safe as you celebrate each event throughout the month. Use designated drivers and use the Travel Risk Planning System available through My Safety on AKO or https://safety.army.mil to reduce your risks as you spend time with family and friends.

Thank you for all that you do.
Hooah!
Welcome to all the newly assigned Soldiers and family members. Our thanks go to Sgt. 1st Class Rosalba Rodriguez, who did an outstanding job coordinating the National Hispanic Heritage Observance event with SAMMC. As stated last year, Hispanic-Americans have made tremendous contributions to our country. We would like to extend our thanks to the Hispanic-Americans Soldiers and Civilians working at the ISR. Hispanic-Americans play a critical role in our mission and contribute to our success of optimizing combat casualty care.

As many Soldiers completed their APFTs, the following remarks from Sgt. Major of the Army Richard A. Kidd are a reminder of the importance staying fit throughout their tenure in the Army:

“I would like to emphasize how important physical fitness is. During combat, you have tremendous adrenaline flow. It helps during that time. [Also] if you are wounded, it helps you. According to the doctors, you can be operated on more often, the repair work can be accomplished quicker, you heal much faster, are more resilient and if you’re physically fit you have a better mental attitude. You can come back quicker.”

First of all, I would like to start by congratulating Sgt. James McAlister and Spc. Jaffster Daus for being selected as NCO and Soldier of the Month, respectively, for October. Their photographs will be on display in the company area.

Congratulations to the following Soldiers on their promotion on November 1: Staff Sgt. Hector Cortez, Staff Sgt. Scott Eriksen, Sgt. Polly Busman, Sgt. Brian Brown, Sgt. Wade Giacomini, Sgt. Francisco Rosario-Belloso, and Sgt. Marites Staley. Note: Cortez’s is a battlefield promotion. There were two other viable candidates competing for the promotion, but his record and actions in theater edged him to the top.

I would like to thank Sgt. 1st Class Rosalba Rodriguez and the Equal Opportunity Team for the fantastic celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. A special thank you is also in order for the nationally competitive Mariachi Band from the Southwest High School ISD and folk dancers from the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. They provided the entertainment for the great event.

I would also like to thank Capt. Kenneth Dunham, Staff Sgt. Michael Cavallo, the Events Committee, and all the volunteers for hosting an outstanding 2013 Fall Festival at the Warrior and Family Support Center. When you see the members of the committee, please congratulate and thank them for putting together such a family-fun event. Our committee is not taking a break. They are already planning for the 2013 Holiday Party, scheduled for December 21 from 1600-2200 at the Warfighter and Family Readiness Center (ACS/ Roadrunner) building on post. If you would like to join the committee or volunteer to help out with this even, please contact Staff Sgt. Cavallo.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to talk about sexual assault. Dating violence and non-consensual encounters affect every member of our organization. These incidents will not be tolerated in any form. We are encouraging education and reporting of sexual assault. As your command team, we are striving to make every day a safe and hostile-free work place.

Thank you all for everything that you do each day to help us be the best organization in the MRMC!
Due to requirements and vaccine availability, flu shots will be provided to military and direct care-providers first. Once the required personnel have been vaccinated, everyone else can get the vaccine on Nov. 6.
ISR, UTSA Gather for First ISR/UTSA Day

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michael Davis, USAISR Deputy Commander, center, welcomes ISR and UTSA members to the first ISR/UTSA Day October 9.

Story and photos by Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

Staff members from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (US-AISR) along with faculty and students from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) held the first US-AISR/UTSA Day October 9. The event hosted at the USAISR was designed to promote an exchange of information between investigators from both organizations and to encourage further collaboration in regenerative and biomedical research.

“This type of event is important because it creates synergy in research and prevents duplicative research efforts,” said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Michael R. Davis, USAISR Deputy Commander and reconstructive surgeon at the San Antonio Military Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. “It also enables joint efforts in seeking research funding in an environment that is more and more competitive.”

The agenda focused on opportunities to transform microbiology, stem cell research and tissue engineering into novel regenerative medicine advancement for treating battlefield trauma included oral presentations by UTSA faculty investigators as well as poster presentations by students, post-doctoral fellows and faculty.

John McCarrey, Ph.D., Director at the San Antonio Cellular Therapeutics Institute Department of Biology UTSA stated that events like this can lead to new, productive interactions and collaborations between investigators from both institutes.

“Although we know that each institute exists and that there are certain scientific or biomedical interests held by individuals at each institute, we cannot fully appreciate the depth of our mutual interests and/or the extent of overlap that may exist among us until we take the time to get together so that we can hear about what each of us is really doing,” McCarrey said.

Davis and McCarrey believe that this event was beneficial for both institutes.

“The event went very well and ac-

ISR/UTSA continued on next page

Shanmugasundaram Natesan, Ph.D., left, listens to Daniel Cooper, a UTSA student as he talks about his research project.
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accomplished everything that we hoped it would," said McCarrey. “It has been clear to me for some time that there is significant overlap in research interests among investigators at UTSA and ISR and that we have yet to take full advantage of the potential to interact and collaborate to fully exploit these common interests.”

Davis agreed and went on to say that this event also served as a stepping stone for two upcoming conferences focusing on regenerative medicine and stem cell research.

“Both the ISR and UTSA will have strong presence there,” said Davis, referring to the Regenerative Medicine conference in February and the 2014 World Stem Cell Summit, both to be held in San Antonio. “Academic leaders, industry and Department of Defense researchers will come together to share their research.”

As a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Md., the USAISR strives to be the Nation’s premier joint research organization planning and executing registry-based and translational research providing innovative solutions for burn, trauma, and combat casualty care from the point of injury through rehabilitation.
By Steven Galvan
USAISR Public Affairs Officer

A physiologist/researcher from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) at Joint Base San Antonio—Fort Sam Houston received the “Outstanding Distinguished Graduate Alumni Award” of the University of California, Davis (UCD) College of Biological Sciences. Victor A. Convertino, Ph.D., the tactical combat casualty care research task area program manager at the USAISR, accepted the award from Dr. James E. K. Hildreth, Dean of the College of Biological Sciences, during a ceremony at Davis, Calif. October 10.

“I am very humbled and honored to have received a career award from an institution that holds national rankings in the top 10 for public universities and in the top 50 in life sciences and medicine research,” said Convertino. “But I’m most deeply touched by the respect that I’ve received by my colleagues. I hold a deep appreciation that no individual recognition accurately reflects a lifetime of support from family, friends, teachers, and colleagues who’ve made every accomplishment possible. This ‘lifetime team’ includes the support and contributions of past and present members of the tactical combat casualty care research task area here at the USAISR.”

Nomination letters written by Convertino’s colleagues to support this award stated that he was instrumental in the development of exercise countermeasures for astronauts and high-performance aircraft pilots with translational application to the care of special populations such as patients who are bed-ridden or wheelchair-restricted and that he was also involved in research that supported the development of advanced technologies for application in military medicine which are designed to “optimize combat casualty care” by providing early diagnosis and treatment of life-threatening low-tissue perfusion during out-of-hospital care.

During his opening remarks, Hildreth read an excerpt from a nomination letter written by former Director of NASA Life Sciences, Dr. Joan Vernikos: “One more point is worth raising about Dr. Convertino’s suitability for this recognition by the Alumni Association of the College of Biological Sciences. This has to do with his character and personality. Those who know Vic also know that ‘lazy’ is not a word in his vocabulary. I write here in the present rather than the past tense because Vic is not done discovering and we are the better for it. He is conscientious, hard working and fair to his support team and co-workers who all get generous credit and recognition for their work which he makes sure gets published promptly. These are notably traits that are not found often in our profession. He has helped raise his colleagues throughout his career to a higher level of productivity. His teams work hard, work well, have fun and in the process make exciting discoveries. That is what science is about and Dr. Convertino is such a scientist. UC Davis should be most proud to have produced not only an outstanding scientist, but indeed a scholar.”

Among the several combat casualty care research projects that Convertino has participated in since joining the USAISR in 1998 are the impedance threshold device (ITD) and compen-
satory reserve index (CRI) algorithm. The ITD increases low blood pressure in spontaneously breathing patients and the CRI algorithm utilizes the information obtained from a standard pulse oximeter and gauges whether a patient requires resuscitation or immediate medical attention.

In his acceptance speech, Convertino read an excerpt from an e-mail that he received from the chief of emergency medicine deployed at the 228th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq in June 2007. The note stated that a soldier with a gunshot wound to the pelvis was brought to the emergency room. The patient was in shock with low blood pressure and the medical staff was having problems finding a vein to start an IV. After an injection with a medication to raise the blood pressure failed, the medical staff placed a breathing value (ITD) which raised the blood pressure allowing an IV to get started. The patient was stabilized and sent to the operating room for surgery.

“I couldn't think of anything that better defines the value of an education from the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California at Davis,” he said. “And the opportunity to serve our Nation's military who defends the freedoms that we enjoy. I’m deeply grateful for such opportunities.”

Convertino first attended UCD in 1972 and earned a Master of Arts degree in Physical Education in 1974 with an emphasis in exercise physiology. He enrolled in the doctoral program in 1974 and continued his dissertation research while working full-time as a research associate in the Cardiology Division at the Stanford University School of Medicine. He earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Physiology with a minor in Biochemistry in 1981.
In the Spotlight
Staff Sgt. Garry Nash

Job title: NCOIC, Clinical Education (68X3O) Behavioral Health Specialist

How long have you worked at the ISR? 6 months

What or who has been an inspiration to you in your work? My family.

What is your favorite part of your job? Getting to interact with so many incredibly talented people.

Your proudest achievement? Earning a Combat Medic Badge during operations in Afghanistan.

Short- and long-term goals: Short-term: Get prepared for and get promoted to Sgt. 1st Class. Long-term: Finish a bachelor’s in Studio/Sound Engineering.

Hobbies: Writing/recording music and working on my '69 Corvette.


Favorite movie/TV show: 3:10 to Yuma/How I Met your Mother

Favorite quote: “The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” Socrates

November Health News

By Maria G. Dominguez, R.N.
COHN-S/CM
Occupational Health

American Diabetes Month takes place each November and is a time to come together as a community to Stop Diabetes*. Specifically World Diabetes Day is Nov. 14! The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is engaged in action to tackle diabetes from the local to the global level—from programs at community level to worldwide awareness and advocacy. Established in 1994, the IDF Consultative Section on Diabetes Education (DECS) identifies and addresses issues relating to diabetes education and care at the international level. World Diabetes Day unites national member associations in more than 160 countries around the World Diabetes Day campaign.

Diabetes in Texas is very prevalent. According to the 2010 Texas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data, 9.7 percent of adults 18 years and older in Texas have been diagnosed with diabetes and about 215,000 Americans younger than age 20 have diabetes.

Diabetes is among the top 10 leading causes of deaths in Texas. In 2010, about 4,738 individuals died due to diabetes as the primary cause of death. And people with diabetes are more likely to suffer from complications such as heart attacks, strokes, high blood pressure, kidney failure, blindness, and amputations of feet and legs.

What is diabetes? Diabetes mellitus,

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or simply diabetes, is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas is no longer able to make insulin or when the body cannot make good use of the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas that acts like a key to let glucose from the food we eat pass from the bloodstream into the cells in the body to produce energy. All carbohydrate foods are broken down into glucose in the blood. Insulin helps glucose get into the cells.

Not being able to produce insulin or use it effectively leads to raised glucose levels in the blood (known as hyperglycemia). Over the long term, high glucose levels are associated with damage to the body and failure of various organs and tissues.

There are three main types of diabetes:

Type 1 diabetes was called juvenile-onset diabetes. It is usually caused by an auto-immune reaction where the body’s defense system attacks the cells that produce insulin. The reason this occurs is not fully understood. People with type 1 diabetes produce very little or no insulin. The disease may affect people of any age, but usually develops in children or young adults. People with this form of diabetes need injections of insulin every day in order to control the levels of glucose in their blood. If people with type 1 diabetes do not have access to insulin, they will die.

Type 2 diabetes used to be called non-insulin-dependent diabetes or adult-onset diabetes and accounts for at least 90% of all cases of diabetes. It is characterized by insulin resistance and relative insulin deficiency, either or both of which may be present at the time diabetes is diagnosed. The development of type 1 diabetes is usually sudden and dramatic.

Both type 1 and type 2 diabetes are serious conditions. There is no such thing as mild diabetes. The diagnosis of type 2 diabetes can occur at any age. Type 2 diabetes may remain undetected for many years, and the diagnosis is often made when a complication appears or a routine blood or urine glucose test is done. Symptoms can often be mild or absent in people with type 2 diabetes, making this type of diabetes hard to detect. It is often, but not always, associated with overweight or obesity, which itself can cause insulin resistance and lead to high blood glucose levels. People with type 2 diabetes can often initially manage their condition through exercise and diet. However, over time most people will require oral drugs and/or insulin.

Gestational diabetes (GDM) is a form of diabetes consisting of high blood glucose levels during pregnancy. It develops in 1-in-25 pregnancies worldwide and is associated with complications to both mother and baby. GDM usually disappears after pregnancy, but women with GDM and their children are at an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life. Approximately half of women with a history of GDM go on to develop

On October 12, USAISR Comprehensive Intensive Care Research Program Task Area Manager, Jose Salinas, Ph.D., was a guest on the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) Military City USA Radio Show on NewsTalk 930 AM KLUP.

Salinas discussed various topics, to include growing up in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and his work on trauma research and development projects at the USAISR, among other topics. Listen to the show in its entirety at www.militarycityusaradio.org.
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type 2 diabetes within 5 to 10 years after delivery.

The risk factors for type 1 diabetes are still being researched. However, having a family member with type 1 diabetes slightly increases the risk of developing the disease.

Several risk factors have been associated with type 2 diabetes and include:

- Family history of diabetes
- Overweight
- Unhealthy diet
- Physical inactivity
- Increasing age
- High blood pressure
- Ethnicity
- Impaired glucose tolerance
- History of gestational diabetes
- Poor nutrition during pregnancy

Some of these things you can change, like your weight and how much you exercise. Other things, like your age or your family history, you can't change. But being aware of them can help you take smart steps to lower your risk.

How do you assess your risk factors? CheckUp America, a national prevention initiative of the American Diabetes Association is aimed at helping people learn how to lower their risk for type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

However, if you are experiencing any signs and symptoms of diabetes, such as (and sometimes there may be no signs):

- Frequent urination, excessive thirst, increased hunger, weight loss
- Tiredness, lack of interest and concentration, a tingling sensation or numbness in the hands or feet, blurred vision, frequent infections, slow-healing wounds
- Vomiting and stomach pain (often mistaken as the flu)

Diabetes can also affect your vision by causing cataracts and glaucoma. If you have diabetes, you may get cataracts at a younger age, and your chances of developing glaucoma are doubled.

Early diagnosis of diabetes and, most importantly, maintaining strict control of blood sugar and hypertension through diet, exercise and medication, can help reduce your risk of developing eye disease associated with diabetes.

The National Diabetes Education Program is available at: www.yourdiabetesinfo.org.

Other important days that are observed in November are:

- The Great American Smoke Out
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month
- National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month
- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

National Respiratory Care Week was observed throughout the United States from October 20-26. The week-long observation is designed to recognize respiratory care profession and promote awareness of lung health issues and practices. In recognition of the annual event, USAISR Burn Center and San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) respiratory care professionals set up many educational exhibits at the SAMMC Medical Mall October 22-24 to celebrate and educate staff and patients on the use of respiratory equipment and programs. Sgt. Camille Gonzales, a Burn Center respiratory specialist, explains the different respiratory equipment used at the Burn Center and by the Burn Flight Team.
By Gerri Trumbo
Library Manager

In spite of the furlough and fiscal issues, the Army Medicine Virtual Library contracts will be awarded January 1, 2014. Please note the following additions to the eResources list:

**Psychiatry Online (POL):**
Funded by Tricare Management Activity (TMA) and now known as Defense Health Agency (DHA), POL is now available across the Military Health System (MHS). POL offers electronic access to the DSM-5 as well as other e-book and e-journal content. You can access POL through AVL or your MyAthens account.

**LWW Hospital Collection:**
A collection of 41 titles providing access to leading reference texts and handbooks to support physicians, nurses and students.

**LWW Extended Archive Product Definition List (LTOT-AC-E13):**
The LWW Extended Archive complements the LWW Total Access collection and the Definitive Archive. It supplies access to approximately 346 titles with 253 unique journal titles archives.

**UpToDate@Anywhere:**
The AVL’s UpToDate contract now offers remote access via the UpToDate@Anywhere mobile app.

Users can register by going to the AVL's link to UpToDate (located under the Quick Links nav menu). To create an account, click the red Log-in/Register link (upper right-hand side of the UpToDate search page). A confir-
Top left: Col. (Dr.) Booker T. King, left, welcomes Dr. Ashton B. Carter, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, to the Burn Center to visit military patients October 29 (photo by BAMC PAO).
Top right: Col. (Dr.) Michael Weber cuts a birthday cake October 8.
Center right: Maj. Rose Grimm, left, presents Staff Sgt. Khane-sha Murrell Honorable Discharge and Oath of Reenlistment certificates October 23 during her reenlistment ceremony (photo by Rick Anzaldua).
Bottom left: Lt. Col. Paul Mittelsteadt, left, conducts a tour of the Burn Center for UTHSCSA nursing students October 9.
Center left (bottom): Staff Sgt. Cameron Hubbard, right, is congratulated by Maj. Stuart Tyner during a reenlistment ceremony October 4.
Center left (top): Staff Sgt. Shanelle McNair holds her Certificate of Promotion October 1.
Back When...

Can you guess who this ISR staff member is? This photo was taken in 1999 when she was an Airman and graduated from Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base.

Last Month’s Answer:

Nancy C. Molter, Ph.D.
Joint Trauma System

November Awards Ceremony

Army Commendation Medal
Staff Sgt. Seth Holland
Sgt. Soohyun Bang

Army Achievement Medal
Sgt. Soohyun Bang
Spc. Jamar Daniels
Spc. Nguvan Uhaa

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service
Bridgette Adams
Leanna Thompson
Dominique Greydanus
Kaye Neer

Certificate of Achievement
Capt. Jessica Slack
Staff Sgt. Tiffany Baldwin
Sgt. David Corey
Sgt. Jacqueline Mason
Sgt. Anthonette Pierce
Sgt. Kenya Santos
Spc. Martha Rodriguez
Spc. Francisco Rosario-Beloso
Spc. Jamar Daniels
Spc. Danilo Mendoza
Spc. Nguvan Uhaa
Spc. Mark Anthony Cua
Spc. Matthew Winans

Civilian of the Quarter
Gilbert Ramon
Danielle Davis

Commander’s Award for Civilian Service
Raul Vanegas
Christopher Bell
John Clifford
Marcie Fowler
Daniel Darlington

Army Physical Fitness Test
Lt. Col. Kevin Chung
Capt. Kenneth Dunham
Capt. Kari Rodden
Capt. Jessica Slack
Capt. Ronald Woodbury
Sgt. 1st Class Hugo Roman
Staff Sgt. Christopher Coats
Staff Sgt. Cameron Hubbard
Sgt. Melissa Arizmendi
Sgt. Danny Girela
Sgt. Olarewaju Magreola
Sgt. Joni Paciocco
Sgt. MacNeil Ramos
Sgt. Pablo Sierra
Sgt. Daniel Zimmerman
Spc. Damian Thomas

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Your information e-mail will be sent to you with your chosen user name and a link to recover your password.

For Apple products, use ITunes. For Android, use Google Play. For Microsoft, use apps.microsoft.com.

Here’s what you get with UpToDate@Anywhere:

• Free UpToDate mobile app for your IPhone, IPad, Android device, or Windows 8 tablet/phone.
• Fast and easy access to UpToDate by logging in from any computer with an Internet connection.
• Effortless CME credits when you research a clinical question using UpToDate onsite or remotely, including your mobile device.
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