

Editor: Henny van Dijk

[www.uthro.org](http://www.uthro.org)

October, 2024

## Our UTHRO October Event ...

## About Our Speaker:

# UTHRO's 2024 Health Symposium

Thursday October 17 | 11:00—1:00

OCB, Rio Grande Room

This year's symposium will address issues of importance to UTHRO members and their spouses.

From the latest treatments of women's issues, how to stay fit during your senior years—to be better informed about issues that might visit our lives or of those closest to us.

Maybe our motto should be "wear out vs rust out" It seems that as we grow older health has become more and more of an important issue; visits to the doctor's office are more regular and answers more difficult to come by. On Thu. Oct.17 we have invited an excellent speaker to help you understand and/or ask questions.

Bring your UTCare card or BCBS insurance for the free "quadrivalent" flu vaccination given by the City of Houston Health Department Immunization Bureau. If you plan to get the Flu vaccine arrive at 11 because there is paperwork to fill out.

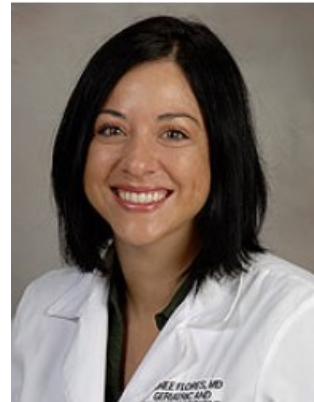
If you don't plan to get the vaccine you have 2 options—you can arrive later for just the lunch prior to our speaker or I have invited representatives of 3 programs to bring you up to date what is happening at UTHealth that might be of importance to you..

*and oh yeah bring some appetite because*

*A Light Lunch Will Be Served.*

Parking will be validated

I believe quite a program, so come on out and join us!



Dr. Flores is an associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine. She also has an appointment as Associate Professor at the McGovern Center for the Humanities and Ethics.

Dr. Flores received her medical doctorate from Saint Matthew's University School of Medicine in the Grand Cayman Islands.

She also completed a Master's in Health Service Administration from Saint Joseph's College of Maine and an Executive Doctorate in Professional Leadership for Health Science Education from the University of Houston. Dr. Flores is board certified in Internal Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Geriatric Medicine. Her clinical interests include geriatric and palliative care; she has a specialized clinic in sexual health at the UT Physicians Center for Healthy Aging in Bellaire.

The title of her talk is:

***Normalcy in Sex and Intimacy with Aging.***

Contact Janice Thomas  
before Oct.12 to say you will attend  
so we have enough lunches for everyone.  
by email ([flyte99@yahoo.com](mailto:flyte99@yahoo.com)) or phone (832-515-0280)

### *In this Issue*

Page 1 UTHRO's Annual Health Symposium

Page 2 UTHealth and UTHRO Announcements as well as a personal reason for the two-page issue this time.

**UTHealth President Resigns...**



It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that I am announcing my intention to step down as President of UTHealth Houston. It has been a privilege to work alongside each of you for these past 12 years as our university has grown by every possible measure. Together we have weathered storms both literal and figurative, and I am proud to say

that today UTHealth Houston is home to unparalleled talents spanning the spectrum of health care—a testament to the exceptional community and collaborative culture we have built.

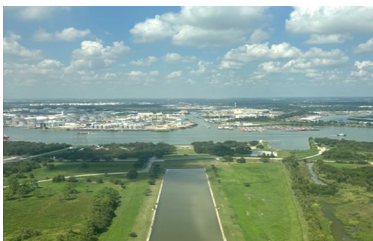
I will continue to serve as President while a search is conducted for my successor, and my door remains open for any questions you may have during this transition.

**A Look Back to our Sep. Event...**



*Photo by the bus driver*

Some 19 UTHRO members boarded the bus at OCB to pay a visit to the San Jacinto Monument and its historic significance to Texas and the US. The museum and of course the view from the top of the monument to the Ship-



channel and its traffic is quite a sight and one doesn't have to walk up, it's an elevator ride right to the top. Afterwards a great luncheon was had at the historic Monument Inn.

**A Personal Accounting ...**

My wife and I have discovered that getting older is not for sissies (Bette Davis quote).

After our move to a senior living facility, Yoka developed some serious movement and balance issues, so I have decided to cut back on the Evergreen production. Filling 4 pages with pertinent information is a time consuming activity. I need to put all my time in taking care of her, so I proposed to the Executive Committee to produce a two-page newsletter for the time being the way the Evergreen started in 1993. I will concentrate on just UTHRO's event and content that is UTHealth and UTHRO news.

If anyone out there would like to help me with the content of the newsletter I can easily and timely format it for the newsletter. The majority of our members have email while about 15 members don't have a computer and require the printed version. I proposed to print those 15 and mail it. Again something one of our members can help with.

The care of my wife comes first, but I have always thought that staying connected with colleagues is important and so I've done the newsletter for 17 years and enjoyed it thoroughly. I hope you understand my dilemma and accept the changes for now. .

With kind regards,  
Henny

**A 50 Year Mystery Solved...**

Thousands of lives could be saved around the world after NHS scientists discovered a new blood group system - solving a 50-year-old mystery.

The research team, led by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) scientists in South Gloucestershire and supported by the University of Bristol, found a blood group called MAL. They identified the genetic background of the previously known AnWj blood group antigen, which was discovered in 1972 but unknown until now after this world-first test was developed.

Louise Tilley has been working on the project for 20 years Using genetic testing, NHSBT's International Blood Group Reference Laboratory in Filton have for the first time developed a test that will identify patients missing this antigen. Everyone has proteins outside their red blood cells known as antigens, but a small number might lack them.

The test could prove a lifesaver for those who would react against a blood transfusion, and will make it easier to find potential blood developers for this rare blood type..

*Matthew Hill & Leigh Boobyer reporting*

**UTHRO OFFICERS 2024**

- President** Barbara Kelly
- Vice-Pres** Cathy Findley
- Secretary** Daun Gray
- Treasurer** Margaret Zambrano
- Newsletter Editor** Henny van Dijk
- Web Administrators** Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu). This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efen Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.