San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium
San Antonio, Texas

Office of the Dean

3 May 2010

Welcome to the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (SAUSHEC). As Dean of the Consortium, and on behalf of the Commanders of the 59th Medical Wing (Wilford Hall Medical Center- WHMC) and Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), it is my pleasure to extend a warm greeting to you and your family as you prepare for your training experience in San Antonio. SAUSHEC is the sponsoring institution for military Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs in San Antonio, and is one of the largest GME institutions in the Department of Defense (DoD), combining the resources of two of the nation's finest military teaching institutions. We believe this makes us the strongest GME center in all of DoD. We congratulate you on your selection to our excellent SAUSHEC training programs. The time you spend here will likely be very challenging, but will most certainly be professionally and personally rewarding.

It is our goal to make the transition to military life in San Antonio, for both you and your family members, as smooth as possible. We have created an orientation section on the SAUSHEC web site (http://www.sammc.amedd.army.mil/saushec/index.asp) where you will find important information necessary to in-process at SAUSHEC. Please make it a point to check this site frequently over the next few months, as we continue to update it with new information. The web site contains useful information that you will find helpful during this transition period.

Your Program Director should assign you a sponsor who will serve as a liaison and help you and your family with the move to San Antonio. In addition, please expect to be contacted by a member of the Wilford Hall Officers' Auxiliary (WHOA) or BAMC Auxiliary. These auxiliaries are the spouse organizations at our member hospitals, and they provide many great services, including some financial support for SAUSHEC activities. I encourage your spouse to participate in one of these organizations during your stay in San Antonio.

During the month of June, we will conduct orientation and in-processing at both hospitals. It is critical that you coordinate your activities with your program as individual requirements vary among programs and clinical departments. The schedule will allow time to interface with your program director and will provide some unscheduled time for you to set up your new home or apartment. Several events planned during orientation will help prepare your family for your training experience in San Antonio. While your participation is mandatory, family participation is voluntary. However, I encourage you to include your spouse in these activities, as they will help with the transition into your very demanding assignment.

One such event is the Welcome Social, which SAUSHEC will sponsor on the evening of the 23rd of June. This event is planned for both individuals and families and provides a great opportunity to meet fellow residents/interns, family members, program faculty and senior leaders from both hospitals in a relaxed, social setting.

In the past year, some GME programs have come under the leadership of new program directors or associate program directors. We are accustomed to change in the military and have selected capable and accomplished individuals to continue the tradition of excellence which SAUSHEC programs have always enjoyed. In response to the congressionally mandated Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law, BAMC and WHMC are continuing to integrate and increase collaboration for all services (including educational programs). BRAC will stimulate many opportunities for growth within the consortium.

Again, on behalf of Major General Travis, Commander 59th Medical Wing, Brigadier General Caravalho, Commander Brooke Army Medical Center, and the entire faculty, welcome to SAUSHEC. You are now part of the best medical education organization in the Armed Forces. We look forwarding to greeting you and your family in June!

Dean, Graduate Medical Education