

Texas State Quarterly Team Award

The Radiation Therapy-Marrow Donor Outreach Team was selected as the recipient of the November 2017 Texas State Quarterly Team Award. Thirty-two Radiation Therapy Program students, who have chosen a major in this cancer related profession, enrich their lives as they work with cancer survivors, family members who have lost loved ones, marrow donor drives, and community and national agencies involved in educational development. These students become the extensions of Texas State as Ambassadors working with students at other Texas universities to educate and recruit others to become marrow donor registrants. In October of 2017, the Radiation Therapy Group visited UT Rio Grande Valley continuing its mission. Although the National Marrow Donor Program has the world's largest marrow donor registry of over 12.5 million people that helps cure more than 75 different diseases, a tremendous need exists in registering Latinos. In fact, a Latino has less than half the chance of getting a marrow donor match than a white person. Studies, observations, and testimonies support that there are barriers that exist related to inaccurate perceptions of both the registration and donation process, including a fear of pain. What studies have shown is that myths about registration and donation are pervasive and need to be dispelled in order to increase the number of potential donors in these registries. The team will be conducting the next marrow donor outreach at UT Austin in April of 2018.

The following 2017 data show how the Radiation Therapy Marrow Donor Outreach Group is building a legacy. On the Texas State campus alone, the data show 42 actual marrow donations and 66 marrow donor matches with the following breakdown

Texas State University (spring 2013 – 1,414 registered with 61% minority),

Texas State University (spring 2014 – 2157 registered with 59% minority)

Texas State University (spring 2015 – 1553 registered with 75% minority)

Texas State University (spring 2017 – 1469 registered with 62% minority)

As an outreach off campus, the outreach team has registered 7,441 potential donors with a total outcome of 17 actual marrow donations for recipients ranging from age 2 to 68; and ranging in geographic location of those recipients from Brazil, Mexico City, Florida, New York, Tennessee, to Spain, France among other locations.

UT Pan American (fall 2012 – 1,055 registered with 97% minority). Outcome: 2 donations to recipients in Florida and Spain.

UT Austin (spring 2013- 2,091 registered with 66% minority). Outcome: 11 donations to recipients in Florida, New York, California, Missouri, Tennessee, Canada and Brazil.

UT at Brownsville (fall 2013 – 1,310 registered with 98% minority). Outcome: 2 donations to recipients in Florida and Spain.

Texas A&M International Laredo (spring 2015 – 1,111 registered with 96% minority), Outcome: 1 donation to a recipient in France.

Pictured is Dr. Debbie Thorne - Associate Provost, Dr. Ruth Welborn - Dean of The College of Health Professions, Dr. Ronnie Lozano – Chair of the Radiation Therapy Program, Mrs. Dora Lopez – Program Clinical Coordinator, and the Radiation Therapy Class of 2018 and 2019.

