

# Marriage of SWEC/Texas Tech Benefits Citizens of El Paso

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*E. P. C. M. S.*

In May 2012, the Department of Medicine, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), and Paul L. Foster School of Medicine experienced a milestone. The opening of the Southwest Endocrine – Texas Tech Endocrinology and Metabolism Clinic at 1201 E. Schuster Ave in El Paso. I am happy now to report that the marriage has been consummated and proceeding smoothly and has recently been able to surmount the challenge of Electronic Medical Records.

Southwest Endocrine Consultants (SWEC) was guided for 35 years by its founder Dr. Dick Strader, and then dual stewardship with Dr. Robert Young. The successful acquisition of this clinic building by Texas Tech was achieved in May 2012 after more than three years of discussions. The Strader and Young endocrine clinic has been the flagship in El Paso for quality care in diabetes, thyroid disorders, cholesterol problems, osteoporosis and areas of impaired growth and development. Dr. Tamis Bright, Chief of the endocrinology Division, has been the lone voice for this discipline at University Medical Center for over 15 years before being joined by another endocrine specialist, Dr. Zinnia San Juan, in 2011. Now with the addition of our two new faculty members, Drs. Strader and Young, Dr. Bright has four board-certified specialists and El Paso is in better shape than ever to receive state-of-the-art Endocrinology care—especially in diabetes where we face in El Paso, as well as nationally, an “epidemic” in this challenging medical disorder.

I am most gratified by the fact that the great staff at Southwest Endocrine including their three physician assistants led by Dr. Strader’s right hand man, Dwight Deter, have joined the Texas Tech family. Patients will see the same familiar faces as they continue to receive the same outstanding care. Dr. Bright and San Juan are now transitioning into the practice under Dr. Strader’s direction and with overall supervision by their astute Business Manager Judy Meitler. In addition, Dr. Cielo Manriquez has joined the team in the capacity of primary care physician with a special expertise in diabetes. The legacy of Strader and Young will continue and the Texas Tech “merger” will only enhance patient care since now all our faculty at the Texas Tech campus will also be available as consultants to assist with other medical problems beyond endocrinology patients may have or develop.

Dr. Bright now has the opportunity to start a fellowship pro-

gram to begin training the future experts in diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid, and cholesterol disorders, so they can treat patients in El Paso! We wish the SWEC - Texas Tech family all the best as their venture continues.

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