



SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP Offers New Opportunities for Athletes

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The Health Science Center at UT Tyler

The Health Science Center at UT Tyler (HSC) is continually growing and expanding the scope of medical education. One of the university's latest additions is an all-new sports medicine fellowship, which was developed as part of a vision to provide comprehensive sports medicine care to UT Tyler Patriot athletes and all athletes throughout East Texas. It also played an important role in The University of Texas at Tyler (UT Tyler) being accepted as a full member of the NCAA Division II last year.

"The Division II transition process involved a lot more than outstanding athletic performance," said Dr. Michael Galbraith, the HSC's sports medicine associate program director. "It involved participation by many departments, including our sports medicine department. The expansion of our sports medicine program means more graduate medical education opportunities for residents, and it will help address the significant need for comprehensive sports medicine care in East Texas."

The university has received accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for the sports medicine fellowship program, and will be welcoming its first class of fellows for the 2022-2023 academic year. "Being accredited by the ACGME means residents can be assured that the program meets quality standards," said program director Dr. Rebecca Peebles. "We are excited to welcome our inaugural class next year."

Although the program is new, the university is not unfamiliar to the field of sports medicine. The UT Tyler Department of Sports Medicine is led by a team of experienced, fellowship-trained physicians who will also be collaborating with specialists across the region to offer a well-rounded, multidisciplinary learning experience for fellows. The sports medicine fellowship is a one-year specialty that focuses on primary care sports medicine and orthopedic surgery with core rotations at the UT Health East Texas Physicians Clinic on Patriot Drive in Tyler, the UT Health East Texas Physicians Orthopedics Clinic and various other community specialty clinics.

Fellows will be expected to diagnose and manage a wide range of sports medicine and exercise-related injuries and conditions, demonstrate procedural experience, and complete additional rotations in radiology, physical therapy, exercise physiology and physical medicine and rehabilitation. The program includes at least half a day per week for electives, which include chronic

pain intervention, cardiology, spine surgery, rheumatology and research. “The fellows will be learning from physicians with a wide variety of professional sports medicine experience,” said Dr. Peebles. “Dr. Galbraith and I have worked with professional and Olympic athletes, weekend warriors and soldiers in the military, and we also bring private business and academic faculty experience to the program. Fellows will gain expertise in many cutting-edge procedures, some of which are new to East Texas.”

Fellows will also get hands-on experience providing medical coverage for sports events and facilities throughout East Texas. First and foremost, fellows will be closely involved with the Division II UT Tyler Department of Athletics, where they will care for athletes both in training room settings and sideline events.

They will have the opportunity to work directly with local high schools as a team physician throughout the year. Fellows will work closely with school athletic trainers, and all medical care and decisions will be made in conjunction with supervisory faculty known to the athletic training team. The relationship will include regular visits to the school and training room sites for medical care, as well as having a regular presence for major school athletic events.

Fellows will also work in medical consultation for UT Health East Texas-affiliated athletic trainers working at various local schools and athletic events throughout the region. Other opportunities for fellows to engage as medical consultants for community events include road races, triathlons and the Special Olympics. “Participating in university team athletics and community sporting events provides more hands-on opportunities for the fellows and gives them a real taste of what being a team physician entails,” said Dr. Galbraith. “Just as important, it provides much-needed sports medicine care to athletes in Tyler and the surrounding communities of East Texas.”

The university currently holds free sports injury clinics on Saturday mornings during the fall sporting season, where university physicians, fellows and athletic trainers evaluate student athletes who have sustained an injury and help them start their road to recovery.

For more information about the free Saturday morning sports injury clinics, call (903) 579-2700. To learn more about the Health Science Center at UT Tyler and the sports medicine fellowship program, visit uthct.edu/sports-medicine-fellowship.



Program directors Drs. Michael Galbraith and Rebecca Peebles

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