

## **James W. Tysinger, Ph.D.**

My professional life has revolved around teaching, service, and interdisciplinary collaboration. My love for teaching began in high school by tutoring peers in zoology. At NC State I majored in Science Education/Biology to learn science and understand how people learn and perform. My student teaching mentor helped me hone my teaching skills and gave me my first service experience in faculty development by presenting an in-service session to seasoned teachers at a local school. I have seen the value of interdisciplinary collaboration in my Army and medical school positions. I found that developing faculty and learners fit my personality and gave me the pleasure of seeing people grow professionally.

My dreams of working with my student teaching mentor shattered when a military draft notice arrived just before my college graduation, but new opportunities grew from that despair. Attending the Army's Pharmacy Tech program at Ft. Sam Houston exposed me to the health professions and showed me how integrating disciplines aided learning. After completing the course I was selected to teach inorganic chemistry in the Physician Assistant program and study skills to military students. The PA students' honoring me as their "Instructor of the Year" recognized my commitment to their learning. After leaving the Army I accepted a civilian position at the school where, for eleven years, I taught students, wrote correspondence courses, and developed instructors' teaching skills.

Attending graduate school while working at Ft. Sam Houston gave me a lab in which I applied my learning. Completing my M.A. in St. Mary's Counseling Program showed me how to enhance learning, a skill I still share with learners. My doctoral studies in Curriculum and Instruction at UT-Austin helped me understand teaching principles that I share with faculty. Taken together, my education and experiences showed me that I could help both faculty and students better perform their roles, so I pursued a career in medical education after attending sessions on teaching at UTHSCSA.

Working in medical education offices in medical schools in Arkansas and Arizona and at UT Southwestern honed my teaching skills and gave me service opportunities to develop students and faculty. I helped students enhance their learning skills and prepare for their licensure examinations, and I later added career advising to my services at Arizona. Helping students prepare CVs and personal statements for residency applications led me to write Résumés and Personal Statements for Health Care Professionals, a book that is in its third edition. Working with students showed me that I could also improve their performance by teaching faculty how to enhance their teaching and test-writing skills. These faculty development activities sparked faculty to ask for more collaboration, and course directors sought my help to implement course innovations (e.g., problem-based learning). Funding faculty development activities with Federal grants taught me how to produce scholarly products. At the University of Arizona and the UT Southwestern Medical School I co-directed Family Medicine and Internal Medicine faculty development fellowships. Activities with Family Medicine at these institutions allowed me to share my expertise at national meetings of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine where I have developed and taught a variety of faculty development sessions. While at UT Southwestern I taught in the Family Medicine Faculty Development Fellowship in Waco where I met Alison Dobbie, a UTHSCSA faculty member.

Dr. Dobbie recruited me to UTHSCSA to perform a number of educational roles in Family and Community Medicine. Co-directing the Family Medicine clerkship and serving as an educational leader in the department has allowed me to teach students, residents, fellows, and faculty and perform key administrative roles. Administering programs has also allowed me to conduct funded research. Since arriving here, I have helped obtain over \$2.5 million to support curriculum and faculty development activities in San Antonio and at our Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC). I am proud to have played a key role in the RAHC's success by developing faculty in all specialties. My work in teaching students to prepare for their licensure exams and residency applications, preparing residents for exams, serving faculty, and performing key administrative roles have helped me contribute to the department, school, and HSC. I am excited about my work and roles in the department, and I look forward to continuing to teach, serve, and collaborate as I prepare future health professionals and develop faculty.