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# Ogburn joins UTRGV School of Medicine as founding chair of ObGyn department



**HARLINGEN, TEXAS – AUGUST 24 2015** – Self-described “hands-on educator” Joseph Anthony “Tony” Ogburn, M.D., joins The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine as professor and founding chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, leaving his current posts as professor in the Department of Obstetrics at the University of New Mexico and chief medical officer at the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center, a new community teaching hospital of UNM Health Sciences Center.

“I am honored to be joining the UTRGV School of Medicine team on what will be an amazing journey,” Ogburn said. “I was truly inspired by the enthusiasm, cooperative spirit and focus of everyone I met during the interview process to build a world-class medical school that addresses the needs of the Rio Grande Valley.”

An advocate for improving health care for underserved populations throughout his

career, Ogburn served for six years in the Indian Health Service prior to his position at UNM. He has remained active with the Indian Health Service through the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and by serving as a volunteer on multiple occasions at the Indian Hospital in Pine Ridge, S.D.

“One of my primary goals at the UTRGV School of Medicine will be to ensure our learners are well prepared for the ever-changing world of healthcare today, where working in inter-professional teams to care for the whole patient is essential to improving not just healthcare, but the overall health of the patient and their community,” he said.

Ogburn is passionate about improving healthcare services for underserved populations and advancing educational opportunities for all levels of learners. His wife, Jane, has been teaching fourth grade in Albuquerque, and his daughter, Mallory, attends college at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wa.

Dr. Francisco Fernandez, founding dean of the UTRGV School of Medicine, said Ogburn is a true asset for the university, and for the community.

“I am most pleased that, after a national search, Dr. Ogburn joins us at UTRGV from the University of New Mexico, where he is dedicated to the integration of cutting edge care for the underserved,” Fernandez said.

“He is a nationally recognized leader in graduate medical education currently serving as chairman of the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology, the national organization that oversees obstetrics and gynecology education in the United States. It is this expertise, and his exceptional skills as a clinician, that will help lead our innovative curriculum and inter-professional efforts for women’s health in our community.”

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