



November 13, 2024

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
1200 Congress, Room 25.1
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

The 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act, Article IX, [Section 7.15](#), requires the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to publish a report that summarizes and details activities at state agencies and institutions of higher education that are funded by, directed by, or in collaboration with the World Health Organization or its affiliates. HHSC delegated this reporting requirement to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The report is due on December 1, 2024.

DSHS conducted a survey of state agencies regarding the reporting requirement. Agency responses are available at [DSHS Legislative Reports – 2024 | Texas DSHS](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. Jordan Hill, Director of Government Affairs, serves as the lead staff on this matter, and you can reach her by telephone at (512) 221-3755 or by email at Jordan.hill@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. Shuford, MD".

Jennifer A. Shuford, M.D., M.P.H.
DSHS Commissioner

World Health Organization Reporting Fiscal Year 2024 Results

Agency or Institution of Higher Education (IHE)	Does your agency or institution of higher education conduct activities that are funded, directed, or in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) or its affiliates?	Please provide an overview of activities funded, directed, or in collaboration with the World Health Organization or its affiliates. Only include relevant activities that occurred during fiscal year 2024.
233-Thirteenth Court of Appeals	No	
Agency 315-Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board	No	
Amarillo College	No	
Angelo State University	No	
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas	No	
Central Texas College	No	
Clarendon College	No	
Commission on State Emergency Communications	No	
Comptroller of Public Accounts	No	
Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending	No	
Eighth Court of Appeals	No	
Eleventh Court of Appeals	No	
Employees Retirement System of Texas	No	
Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners	No	
First Court of Appeals of the State of Texas	No	
Fourteenth Court of Appeals of the State of Texas	No	
GALVESTON COLLEGE	No	
General Land Office and Veterans' Land Board	No	
Health and Human Services Commission	No	
Hill College	No	
Howard County Junior College District (Howard College)	No	
Lamar University	No	
Midwestern State University	No	
Ninth Court of Appeals	No	
Office of Public Insurance Counsel	No	
Office of Public Utility Counsel	No	
Office of the Attorney General	No	
Office of the Governor	No	
Prairie View A&M University	No	
Public Utility Commission of Texas	No	
Railroad Commission of Texas	No	
Ranger College	No	
Second Court of Appeals	No	
Seventh Court of Appeals	No	
South Texas College	No	
Southwest Texas College	No	
State Auditor's Office	No	
State Auditor's Office	No	
State Commission on Judicial Conduct	No	
State Commission On Judicial Conduct	No	
State Law Library (243)	No	
State Office of Administrative Hearings	No	
State Preservation Board (809)	No	
Sunset Advisory Commission	No	
Tarleton State University	No	
Teacher Retirement System of Texas	No	
Tenth Court of Appeals	No	
Texarkana College	No	
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service	No	
Texas A&M AgriLife Research	No	
Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station	No	
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service	No	
Texas A&M Forest Service	No	
Texas A&M International University	No	
Texas A&M Transportation Institute	No	
Texas A&M University	No	
Texas A&M University at Galveston	No	
Texas A&M University System	No	
Texas A&M University System Health Science Center	No	
Texas A&M University-Central Texas	No	
Texas A&M University-Central Texas	No	
Texas A&M University-Commerce	No	
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	No	
Texas A&M University-Kingsville	No	
Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory	No	
TEXAS ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION	No	
Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council	No	
Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners	No	
Texas Board of Law Examiners	No	
Texas Bond Review Board	No	
Texas Bond Review Board	No	
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	No	
Texas Commission on Fire Protection	No	
Texas Commission on Fire Protection	No	
Texas Commission on Jail Standards	No	
Texas Commission on Law Enforcement	No	
Texas Commission on the Arts	No	
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals	No	
Texas Department of Banking	No	
Texas Department of Criminal Justice	No	
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services	No	
Texas Department of Insurance	No	
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation	No	
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles	No	
Texas Department of Public Safety	No	
Texas Department of State Health Services	No	
Texas Department of Transportation	No	
Texas Division of Emergency Management	No	
Texas Education Agency	No	
Texas Ethics Commission	No	
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	No	
Texas Juvenile Justice Department	No	
Texas Lottery Commission	No	
Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission	No	

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Texas Medical Board	No	
Texas Military Department	No	
Texas Optometry Board	No	
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	No	
Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board	No	
Texas Public Finance Authority	No	
Texas Racing Commission	No	
Texas Real Estate Commission	No	
Texas School for the Deaf	No	
Texas Southern University	No	
Texas State Board of Dental Examiners	No	
Texas State Board of Pharmacy	No	
Texas State Board of Public Accountancy	No	
Texas State Library and Archives Commission	No	
Texas State Securities Board	No	
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	No	
Texas State University	No	
Texas Tech Health Sciences Center El Paso	No	
Texas Tech University	No	
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center	No	
Texas Tech University System Administration	No	
Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company	No	
Texas Veterans Commission	No	
Texas Water Development Board	No	
Texas Woman's University	No	
Texas Workforce Commission	No	
		One faculty member provides educational materials and consulting services to the Pan American Health Organization, a WHO affiliate based in Washington, D.C.
		Two faculty members have established a Protocol Agreement with WHO to establish a Collaborating Centre at UTEP related to improving health for persons with disabilities.
The University of Texas at El Paso	Yes	
The University of Texas at El Paso	No	
The University of Texas at San Antonio	No	
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston)	No	
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio	No	
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	Yes	Please see the attached response.
The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB)	Yes	Please see the attached response.
Third Court of Appeals	No	
Twelfth Court of Appeals	No	
University of Houston Clear Lake	No	
University of Houston-Downtown	No	
University of Houston-Victoria	No	
University of North Texas	No	
University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth	No	
University of Texas at Austin	No	
University of Texas Permian Basin	No	
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	No	
		Although UT Southwestern does not have any awards or agreements with the World Health Organization (WHO) or its affiliates for FY2024 to fund, conduct or collaborate activities with or on behalf of WHO, one of our faculty, Dr. Saad Omer, Dean of the School of Public Health, is a consultant to the World Health Organization. During FY2024, Dr. Omer traveled to Geneva to provide technical expertise on an advisory panel called SAGE (Strategic Advisory Group of Experts) related to immunology. He has also presented remotely at similar collaborative events. Dr. Omer is not paid for his consulting services; however, Dr. Omer's respective travel expenses are funded by a third-party, non-UT Southwestern organization(s).
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Yes	
Vernon College	No	
Victoria College	No	
Weatherford College	No	
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	No	

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Response from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Please provide an overview of activities funded, directed, or in collaboration with the World Health Organization, or its affiliates. Only include relevant activities that occurred during fiscal year 2024. Please note that detailed responses to this question will be reproduced verbatim in the required report to the Texas legislature. If your response requires additional information in the form of a file attachment, please email the file to whoreporting@dshs.texas.gov

MD Anderson's mission is to eliminate cancer in Texas, the nation and the world. MD Anderson's collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO) advance this mission to have the greatest impact on cancer worldwide. MD Anderson shares knowledge and expertise to help reduce the burden of cancer at the regional and population level around the globe.

All of MD Anderson's activities with WHO are collaborative in nature; they are not funded by or directed by WHO. No General Revenue is used for these initiatives.

Specifically, this collaboration aims to increase access to high quality cancer care for women around the world. The focus is WHO's global initiatives in adult cancers, i.e., the [Global Breast Cancer Initiative](#) and the [Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative](#). MD Anderson's activities include:

- Expert guidance -- reviews and contributions to WHO technical documents

- Cancer control and prevention – strategies, planning, and implementation assistance

- Capacity building – education, training of physicians, nurses, and other clinicians

In alignment with these same initiatives, MD Anderson collaborates with the WHO Regional Office for the Americas – the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

[MD Anderson and PAHO executed a memorandum of understanding in May 2024.](#)

[MD Anderson and WHO executed a memorandum of understanding in October 2022.](#)

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Response from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Activity	Description	Date/Location
Publications and technical guidance	Contributions of expertise Review and recommendations by disease and discipline specific experts Ex: Global breast cancer initiative implementation framework	As requested
Cervical cancer secondary prevention	Training on treatment of pre invasive disease with LEEP and thermal ablation	various
Cervical cancer control plans	Workshops that guide ministries of health from dozens of Latin American countries in development of national cervical cancer elimination plans strategies and implementation	Miami Mexico City Virtual
Breast cancer diagnostics training	Training course for imaging and biopsy for 13 Caribbean nations	May 2024 (MD Anderson Woodlands)
WHO Cancer Partners Forums (Breast and Cervical)	Provide guidance and technical expertise	Routine (virtual)
Project ECHO	List of all ECHOs done w/PAHO MMIC, etc.	
IMPACT Reviews	National cancer control planning – recommendations report By request of Ministry of Health	April (Peru, Mozambique) May (Mongolia) July (Indonesia)
Patient Navigation for Breast Cancer	Expert contribution to technical guidelines	Ongoing
Global Breast Cancer Initiative – training materials		
Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum	Convening of ministers and senior officials from ministries of health from countries with a high burden of cervical cancer to set global strategy	March 2024 (Colombia)

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Response from the University of Texas Medical Branch

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For more than 130 years, UTMB has stood with Texas-training today and tomorrow's health care workforce; working to better understand and treat illness and injury; providing care for Texas families; and innovating new ways to improve health.

UTMB's Sealy Center on Aging currently has an active collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). This work supports PAHO/WHO's efforts to build country capacities for research on healthy aging using population-based studies, and further, to distribute research findings on older adults.

General revenue is not used by the Sealy Center on Aging in this WHO collaboration.

More information regarding this collaboration: [UTMB Sealy Center on Aging & PAHO](#)

UTMB research work serves as a critically important resource in the worldwide fight against infectious diseases. Key faculty, who are often regarded as international experts in their fields of expertise, are thoughtful voices in global conversations regarding assessing medical countermeasures in creating a healthy path forward for our country.

Other activities with the WHO reflecting this institutional infectious disease knowledge are included in the table, such as UTMB faculty offering expert guidance on materials or intersecting research affiliations.

Activity	Description	Connection
<i>UTMB Expert Guidance - Committee Participation and Strategic Plan Review</i>		
Eliminate Yellow Fever Epidemics (EYE) Strategy: Risk Analysis Working Group (2017)	The comprehensive global strategy to eliminate yellow fever epidemics (EYE) was developed by a coalition of partners (Gavi, UNICEF and WHO) to face yellow fever's changing epidemiology, resurgence of mosquitoes, and the increased risk of urban outbreaks and international spread.	A UTMB faculty member participated in the creation of the 2017-2026 strategic plan.
Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)	GOARN is a WHO network of over 250 technical institutions and networks globally that respond to acute public health events with rapid and effective support.	UTMB Director of the Galveston National Laboratory is a member of the global communication network.
WHO Committee: Working Group on Animal Models	This committee conducts presentations based on animal	A UTMB regulatory director attends committee meetings.

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Response from the University of Texas Medical Branch

	models for designated priority pathogens.	
WHO Publication: Lassa Fever Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap (2019)	The roadmap prioritizes the development of countermeasures (diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines) that are most needed by Lassa fever-affected countries and is the result of extensive consultations with the Lassa R&D roadmap taskforce, leading national and international experts and other key stakeholders.	UTMB faculty members participated in the 2019-2029 Lassa Fever strategic plan.
WHO Publication: Nipah Fever Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap (2024)	This R&D roadmap will help stakeholders better understand Nipah fever and identify effective health technologies to save lives. <i>This roadmap is yet to be published.</i>	UTMB faculty was part of a taskforce/discussion group to establish the WHO's Nipah virus research and development (R&D) roadmap.
WHO Publication: Zika Virus Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap (2021)	The roadmap prioritizes the development of countermeasures (diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines) that are most needed by Zika affected countries and is the result of extensive consultations with the Zika R&D roadmap taskforce, leading national and international experts and other key stakeholders.	UTMB faculty members participated in the 2021-2031 Zika Virus strategic plan.
<i>Research Affiliated with WHO - UTMB Faculty Participation</i>		
Vaccine Value Profile (VVP) for Chikungunya Vaccine	The development of the Chikungunya Vaccine Value Profile was commissioned by WHO's Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) department on the recommendation of IVB's Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee, to UTMB.	UTMB faculty participated as independent subject matter experts.
ICTV Virus Taxonomy Profile: Filoviridae 2024	This is a summary of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) Report on the family Filoviridae, of which WHO is listed as an affiliate.	UTMB is listed as one of thirteen affiliates.