**Kudos to Central Receiving for helping keep HSC research — and more — moving!**

**News for team members** University of North Texas Health Science Center **Tue, Mar 31, 2020**

“Research can’t stop,” says Central Services Director Karl Skaar. That’s why his Central Receiving team is going the extra mile every day to ensure materials that are critical to research arrive where they’re needed.

Even if it means delivering specimens directly to a specific research freezer or sending a photo of a package label directly to a research coordinator to ensure it is handled properly.

**Or serving as the collection point for donations of personal protective equipment — see information at end of this post.**

Even during the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis, enrollment continues in the [PRECISION](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/precision-pain-research-registry/) Pain Research Registry that’s seeking treatments for low-back pain, says Project Coordinator Samantha Johnson.

The Central Receiving team’s many above-and-beyond actions include “texting my personal cell when my department — working from home — received a package, so arrangements could be made for pick-up.”

“Since then, Receiving Clerk Lead Jeremy Lopez has been taking pictures of our shipping slips and sending to the department email,” Johnson said.

Skaar says the quantity of packages his team handles is down a bit, but there is still plenty to do, in rotating shifts with three team members on site at a time.

Sometimes a remote department picks up an item. But far more often, Central Receiving delivers items to the proper destination — the optimum environment required by various research materials.

That could be a specific freezer, as the team did at the request of Katrina Gordon, PhD, Discovery Center Manager.

“Central Receiving is performing a vital function not only for HSC but also for our partners in the Acceleration Lab,” she says. “That team is correctly storing all packages coming to campus for our [Acceleration Lab](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/research-development-and-commercialization/acceleration-lab/) companies who use our shared [Discovery Center](https://www.unthsc.edu/research/discovery-centers/) labs to conduct their research. I would normally take care of storing these packages myself – however, since I am working remotely, they are doing this for me.”

Jolene Applegate, Assistant to the Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences, joins the chorus of praise. Skaar’s initiative “means getting critical products for grant research and private contracts is easier rather than more difficult,” she says. “He is pretty awesome year-round — and invaluable to us during this challenging time.

“The System College of Pharmacy can keep focusing on creating solutions for healthier communities.”

Says Skaar: “Everyone is doing these tasks in a new way, on short notice, with a great attitude.”

**The Central Receiving Team:**

* Jeremy Lopez, Receiving Clerk Lead
* Jacob Yocom, Receiving Clerk
* Mequel Ramirez, Receiving Clerk
* Noah Whitmore, Receiving Clerk Technician

**PPE DONATIONS**

Central Receiving also is picking up and securing donations of personal protective equipment from various campus departments, to be given to health care workers in the community. **To donate, contact Karl Skaar, 817-XXX-XXXX, or Jeremy Lopez, 817-XXX-XXXX.**

As of March 27 the donations included:

* 44 boxes of latex gloves
* 30 lab coats
* Fluid shields to protect health care workers’ faces