

UMC Surgical Center West Performs First Outpatient Spinal Fusions In The City of El Paso; Patients Find Relief



Dr. Jaime Gasco, Neurosurgeon, UMC Spine Center, enjoys the pristine high tech equipment at Surgical Center West.

UMC Surgical Center West is the newest state-of-the-art UMC facility to experience and receive the highest level of care with advanced equipment and highly qualified surgeons. In mid-December, UMC Surgical Center West, located on the west side of El Paso on North Mesa Street, had the opportunity to host two first-time surgeries at the Center with Dr. Jaime Gasco, Neurosurgeon, UMC Spine Center.

Dr. Gasco operated on patients, Jimena Ponte and Brenda Valadez, who were experiencing severe pain in their lower backs.

“The two types of surgery performed on Jimena and Brenda,” said Dr. Gasco, “are called Sacroiliac Joint Fusion and Oblique Lateral Lumbar Interbody Fusion (OLLIF). Sacroiliac Joint Fusion is designed to fix a joint commonly affected in women who have had numerous childbirths

and presents as low back pain. OLLIF is designed to improve instability in the back without the removal of tissue or anything natural.”

Dr. Gasco also conducts pain management techniques including injections, nerve blocks, radiofrequency ablations, lumbar spinal fusions, Carpal tunnel, Kyphoplasty (spine fracture repair), nerve decompressions, and many more services.

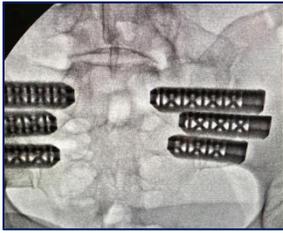


Image of patient Jimena Ponte's back during surgery.

Both patients are happy with their results, as they have been suffering with severe pain for several years.

Jimena underwent Sacroiliac Joint Fusion recently and is recovering. "The results are so worth it," she said.

Brenda's OLLIF surgery on Dec. 8 left her "feeling really good."

Her pain stemmed from a horseback-riding accident when she was about eight or nine years old, she said.

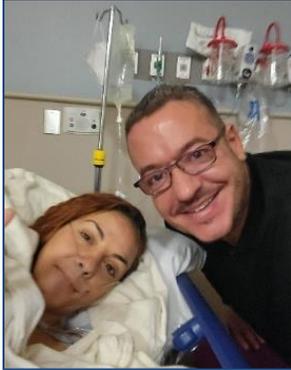
"I noticed," she said, "I do not have the old pain as before. Dr. Gasco was awesome. He was very attentive, explained everything and really helped me out."

Jimena agrees.

"Dr. Gasco is extremely professional, has great bedside manners, and explains everything from A to Z in very simple terms," she said. "He really follows up after surgery."



Image of patient Brenda Valadez's back during surgery.



Dr. Jaime Gasco poses with his patient, Jimena Ponte, after her surgery.



Dr. Jaime Gasco poses with his patient, Brenda Valadez, two days after her surgery.

Communication PBX Operators: Connecting UMC



Left to right: (Photo 1) Claudia Calanche, Shirley Monroe and Teresa Lujan, Supervisor. (Photo 2) Julia Duran, Shirley Monroe and Karla Avila. (Photo 3) Naomi Armendariz and Gilbert Marquez. (Photo 4) Arlene Tovar. (Photo 5) Melissa Sippel and Sandy Nunez.

Teresa Lujan, Supervisor of the PBX Operators in the UMC Communications Department, knows her three shifts of operators are more than Associates who answer the phones and transfer calls. "That is only the tip of the iceberg. They do so much more! I tell them they are the heartbeat of UMC. This is not very different from 9-1-1," said the supervisor who has worked as a 9-1-1 dispatcher for seven years in El Paso and three years in Kuwait at two U.S. military bases. "We cannot make a mistake when there is a Code Blue or any other emergencies that come in." *Thank you to all our PBX Operators!*

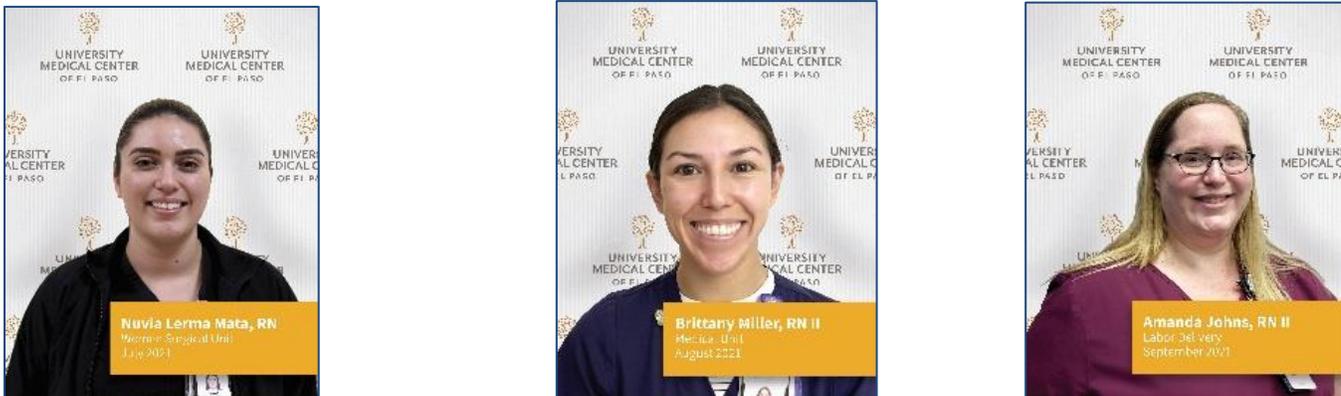
Shine On: Kudos To Our Most Recent Group Of UMC STARS

Congratulations to the current winners of UMC's STARS, recently recognized as surprise visits at their respective departments. Each quarter, UMC announces the names of five Associates nominated by their peers or other Associates for special recognition for their performance excellence and dedication. STARS = Service, Teamwork, Accountability, Respect, and Safety.



Congratulations To The 3rd Quarter UMC DAISY Winners

The DAISY Award is given to extraordinary nurses nominated in honor of the outstanding work they do. DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System, and it was established by the DAISY Foundation in memory of J. Patrick Barnes who died at 33 of an autoimmune disease.



Happy Holidays 2021 Creates 12 Days of Jolly UMC Cheer

UMC's Organizational and Community Engagement Department held a "12 Days of Celebration" from Dec. 10 – Dec. 24. Associates were invited to participate in the themed days that included wearing red and green, festive socks and tights, Elf and Ugly Sweater Days, winter whites and golds and so much more! Take a moment to revisit the holiday celebration and as you do, we thank every UMC Associate for all you do to make our hospital the joyful and robust place it is!



Associate April Gonzalez, Office Specialist, Correctional Health Administration, receives tamales and sweet bread courtesy of the 12 Days of Celebration.



Pictured are a few of the wreaths that were entered in the Wreath Competition 2021.



(Left to Right: (Photo 1) Luz Alfaro, Sandra Mena and Edna Alvarado. (Photo 2) Albert Delgado Jr, Adrian Olivarez, Summer Stout, Joshua Paulette, Rebecca Viramontes and Rick Suarez. (Photo 3) Clarita Ellis and Albert Delgado Jr.)

