**Kathryn E. Peek, Ph.D.**

Kathryn E. Peek, PhD, the University of Houston’s assistant vice president for health initiatives, heads the institution’s health-related education and research initiatives. Before joining UH, Peek served as associate professor for the Department of Imaging Physics, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. She has also held faculty and administrative positions at UT Medical School at Houston, UH College of Optometry, and Texas Woman's University-Houston Center.

Peek’s unique expertise is developing and managing inter-institutional research and education collaborations among TMC institutions. During her four-year tenure at UH, she has established strong new affiliations and partnerships between UH and several other TMC institutions, resulting in innovative new dual degree programs that provide UH students with direct, accelerated pathways to professional schools of medicine, nursing, optometry, and public health as well as graduate studies in biomedical sciences. She has fostered and coordinated the development of new inter-institutional research centers with a variety of TMC institutions, most notably UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. Peek led UH’s drive to become a tobacco-free campus, and is working to assist other regional colleges and universities interested in developing and implementing such policies. She represents UH on the TMC Policy Council, the CPRIT University Advisory Committee, and the Texas Institute for Healthcare Quality and Effectiveness.

A lifelong resident of Southeast Texas, Peek holds degrees in English (BA, Lamar University), biology (MS, University of Houston), behavioral sciences (MA, UHCL), and biomedical sciences (PhD, UTHSC-Houston). After completing a research post-doc in the Department of Neurosurgery, Baylor College of Medicine, she has focused her career efforts on biomedical education and administration. She is former president of the Association for Women in Science-Gulf Coast Chapter and has served on the Board of Directors for several national, statewide, and local non-profit organizations. In 2002, Peek co-founded and served as first president for the Texas Medical Center Women's Health Network, an organization of more than 600 local health professionals. She has won numerous teaching awards and lectures extensively about health and education throughout the country.