



# Scoop



May 6-12  
Nat'l Nurses Week

Friday, May 8, 1998

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

### Calendar Week of May 8-15

**12** Willerson Visiting Professor, **Dr. Judah Folkman**, 1 p.m., 3.001

**13** Dean's Lecture, **Dr. Judah Folkman**, 4 p.m., 3.001

**13** Grants Forum, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JFB G.730

**14** Renal Diseases Seminar, **Dr. Glenn McDonald**, Harvard Medical School, 4:30 p.m., 3.301

**14** UT-Houston Police Department Open House, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 7777 Knight Rd.

**14** Association of Women Faculty program, "Negotiating Skills: How to Take Positive Control of a Situation," noon, 6.018.

**15** Neuroscience Lecture, **Dr. Ralph Nixon**, noon, 3.001

### UTmost Interest

**Dr. George Stancel**, Division of Pharmacology, recently organized and chaired the Graduate Student Convocation at the annual meeting of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics in San Francisco...**Dr. Barry Kahan**, Division of Immunology and Organ Transplantation, was the keynote lecturer speaking on "New Frontiers in Immunosuppression" in Padua, Italy...**Drs. Robert Guynn and Pedro Ruiz** returned from

speaking at the Thematic Conference of the East Mediterranean Region in Lebanon...**Dr. Scott**

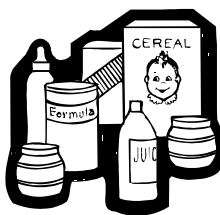


### Hot News

**Gruber**, Division of Immunology and Organ Transplantation, recently published "Etiology and Pathogenesis of Posttransplant Tumors: New Insights into Viral Oncogenesis," in *Annals Transplantation*...**Dr. Jim Bob Parker**, an orthopaedic resident, was voted Outstanding Teacher in Surgery by the 1998 Graduating Class of Medical Students...**Youjeong Kim**, MSI, was awarded a John A. Hartford/AFAR Medical Student Scholarship...**Christian Carlson's**, Dept. of Integrative Biology, research proposal was approved for funding by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Foundation.

### TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER FOOD DRIVE

With more than 40,000 employees collectively in the Texas Medical Center, think how many pounds of food could be collected if we each gave just one can of food. One in three Houston children below age six is hungry or at risk of hunger. Houston has the unenviable score of second highest child poverty rate under the age of six in the nation, surpassed only by Detroit. In the next few weeks, watch for Food Drive boxes to be distributed for collection all around the area. Kelsey-Seybold collected 8,000 pounds of canned perishables last year. A one dollar donation (to be dropped off at G.004) translates into twenty dollars worth of food.



On Thursday, July 16, Channel 11, a zydeco band and art cars, like "Gertrude" and "Dusty Dave the Dolphin," will be at Webber Plaza. They will be on hand to help round up food collected from employees. All proceeds from the sale of hamburgers at the event will also go to the Food Bank, which serves 36 counties in Texas. The most needed items include: baby food/formula, powdered milk, cereal, canned meats, pinto beans, nutritional drinks, canned fruits and vegetables, canned fish, single serving snacks, and jelly/honey.

### INSULIN, ESTROGEN LINK IN BREAST CANCER EXPLORED

An interaction between the hormones estrogen and insulin may encourage the growth and proliferation of breast cancer cells, a finding that may help explain why diabetes is more common in women with breast cancer, according to **Dr. Victoria Knutson**, Dept. of Integrative Biology, Pharmacology, and Physiology. Knutson presented her findings, which are generating considerable scientific interest, at the Experimental Biology '98 conference in San Francisco. There are many questions yet to be answered she explained. "I am not aware of what is cause and what is effect. What happens first, the diabetes or the breast cancer? It may be just a genetic predisposition to either or both." Her work was published as a conference abstract.

### OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS FORUM

The Office of Sponsored Projects (formerly Contracts and Grants) is hosting a Grants Forum on Wed., May 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., JFB G.730. Time will be set aside, say the sponsors, to provide specific guidance regarding all areas of grant proposal preparation and submission for the upcoming June deadlines (NIH and American Heart Association). "No appointment is necessary; just drop by at your convenience," says **Joy Lilljedahl** of the Office of Sponsored Projects.

### EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Sprint for Life 5K Run & Walk**, benefiting ovarian cancer research, Sat., May 16, 7 a.m., Jesse Jones International Rotary House, for information, call 792-2765.
- **31st Annual Hermann Ophthalmology Alumni Conference**, May 29-30, 3.001.
- **Graduation: Awards Ceremony**, Sat. June 6, noon, TMC Conf. Center. Commencement, Sun., June 7, 4 p.m. at George R. Brown Convention Center.
- **Take Your Child to Work Day**, Wed., June 17, for registration, information, and to volunteer, call **Araceli Alvarez**, 500-3868.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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## May Employee of the Month – Catherine Moore



Employee of the Month

A 25-year veteran employee of the medical field, **Catherine Moore**, or “Cathy” as she is affectionately known by many here in the Medical School, is Administrative Assistant III in the Office of Sponsored Projects. What that title translates into is a very successful liaison with faculty for when they need negotiating skills, guidance, and setting up research grant proposals. “Our job is not to tell the researcher what to do,” she said. “Our job is to review and advise. Unless it’s something that’s going to negatively impact the University, the final decisions are always theirs.”

The little girl whose job it was, at 12 years of age, to drive a tractor-trailer to haul corn near Milano, Texas, commented “I love people. I always manage to get jobs where people have to know me,” she admitted. “I’ve had two jobs since I’ve worked in medicine, the first was in the business office at the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences (now MSI) and the second has been the last 12 years right here in the Medical School. About five years ago, Cathy said, the Office of Contracts and Grants was moved over to the Medical School from the Houston Main Building. “Dean John Ribble and Rick Gaines (Associate Dean for Management) were instrumental in finding us space. I think the move was very successful and has been the most positive thing we could have done for research. We were more accessible to our customers, the faculty,” she said.

Because she knows her way around the often tough field of successfully applying for grants, Cathy is admired by peers and faculty alike. “We celebrate,” she said, when asked how she and her office let off steam after horrendous Januarys beating back-to-back contracts and grants deadlines. “We keep our goals up on the wall and when a very large award comes through, we share in the faculty member’s joy. When their proposals don’t make it, we share in their sadness, get together and comfort each other, try to figure out what went wrong, and try again.”

The woman who says “my satisfaction comes when the researcher gets the award,” added, “We try to make sure that our word is our bond. The payback for this is that in the last five years, I have seen more collaborative efforts between UT-Houston faculty and faculty at other institutions and a better quality of proposals.” To replenish her wellspring of energy, Moore can sometimes be found on weekends at Lillie’s and William’s, her mother and dad’s farm in Central Texas where it is “very relaxing.” “I can feel the dawn’s cool breeze and breathe in the clean air,” she mused. Is there a front porch with a swing? “Yes there is,” she responded, with a calm and quiet confidence. Quintessential Cathy.

## May is Allergy and Asthma Awareness Month

Says **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, Division Director, Allergy and Clinical Immunology, “Allergy is the single best known trigger of asthmatic disease worldwide. And the role of allergies connected to asthma varies with age. Over 90% of asthma patients less than 15 years of age have what could be termed ‘allergic’ asthma. That number is still 70% in young people between 15-30 and a full 50% in adults over 40.” Asthma varies widely around the world with the highest annual prevalence of the respiratory disease in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, one study suggests. In the US – which is in the top 10 of countries surveyed for asthma prevalence – asthma rates have risen dramatically since 1980, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report. Countries with the lowest rates include several in Eastern Europe, Indonesia, Greece, China, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, India, and Ethiopia.



Good Health

## Search Committee for Graduate School Dean Update

The GSBS search committee has been updated. **Drs. Tom Burks** (UT-H) and **Andrew Von Eschenbach** (MDACC) are co-chairs. UT-Houston faculty members include: **Drs. Roger O’Neil**, **Barbara Sanborn**, **Gilbert Castro**, and **Craig Hanis** (SPH). M. D. Anderson members include **Drs. Stephen Tomasovic**, **Elizabeth Travis**, **William Plunkett, Jr.**, and **Guillermin Lozano**. **Tracy Thiel** (GSBS) has been named a student member of the committee.

## Graduate School’s Advanced Studies Home Page

Check out the updated version of the Graduate Education Council’s Home Page at <<http://students.uth.tmc.edu/med>>. This home page is primarily intended for graduate student recruitment and lists graduate school faculty members housed in the Medical School and their area of interest. Faculty are listed in four areas: Molecular Biology & Genetics, Cell and Regulatory Biology, Neuroscience, and Human Disease and Environmental Biology. Links to faculty in each area are provided along with the specific research activities.

## Fifth Floor Art Gallery Exhibit

The artist **Jeanne Norsworthy** will speak on May 12, noon, in the Fifth Floor Art Gallery. A light lunch will be provided for the first 25 guests. Her paintings are on display through June 19. Generating some interest, the collection’s theme centers on “Healing and Recovery – Cancer and Recurrence – a Personal Journey of Transcending the Agony to Find New Joy.” One painting in particular, “Releasing My Eagles,” features a surrealist dreamscape of a Southwestern desert. For more information, contact **Elease Jenkins**, 500-3036.



## Faculty Affairs Programs Featured in AAMC Publication

**Dr. Anna Steinberger**, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs, has a featured article in the Spring 1998 AAMC (Assoc. of American Medical Colleges) publication, *Women in Medicine*. From mentoring programs to conferences, her article summarizes the numerous new programs and policies at the Medical School which have positive impact on the professional development of women in medicine. Copies of the article are available in Community Affairs, G.004.

**Fast Fact-** The U.S. spends a higher percentage of its GNP (13.6%) on health care than any other country. Canada follows with 10.2% and Switzerland with 9.9%. Source: *Universal Almanac*, 1997.