



Scoop



Friday, July 10, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

UTmost Interest

Dr. Frank Booth, Integrative Biology, recently presented "Molecular Wellness: Integration of Clinical and Basic Exercise Sciences," at the American College of Sports Medicine's meeting in Orlando...**Dr. Ann Saunders**, Psychiatry, was named Chief of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry...**Dr. Red Duke**, Surgery, recently emceed at the Houston Fire

Museum's Fire Gala fundraiser...**Dr. Grant**



Hot News

Fowler, Family Practice, was elected to his third

term as Member-at-Large, Board of Directors, Association of Family Practice Residency Directors, in Kansas City...**Dr. Linda Cooley**, Pathology, will be attending the AAMC Professional Development Seminar for Senior Women in Medicine next week in Washington, D.C....**Dr. Andrij Holian** was an invited speaker at the first annual Regional Air Quality Summit, Houston...**Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier**, Internal Medicine, was appointed to a Special Study Section, "Pathogenesis and Therapy of Complications of Diabetes," by the NIH...**Dr. George Weinstock**, Microbiology, will speak on "Spirochete Genomics" next week at the University of Wuerzburg, Germany...**Dr. Scott Gruber**, Immunology, was appointed as Regional Representative to the United Network for Organ Sharing Kidney/Pancreas Transplantation Committee...**Dr. Agnes Schonbrunn**, Integrative Biology, chaired the Fifth International Pituitary Congress in Naples, FL.

July 24 Deadline

CHILIFEST CONTEST ENSUES

Well he's been around for two years, and it's about time he had a name. "Name the Ant Contest" is part of ChiliFest 98's pitch for their October 16th event at HMB Park inside the jogging track between 2-6 p.m. The band "Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes" will be heating up the afternoon, and Goode Co. restaurants will provide the delectables. The winning name contestant will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Target. Mail your name, dept., bldg., room no., work phone no., and winning name for the buggy mascot to **Cindy Wingfield**, UCT 150 or see <www.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ishome/forms/chili.html>. Entry deadline is July 24.



Starting July 13

UT-H BUycard TRAINING CLASSES BEGIN



The new UT-H Buycard is available to faculty and staff members who are authorized to make purchases for projects or departments. "We look forward to your attendance and participation in the program," says **Stephen A. Wiggs**, HSC Procurement Services. UCT will be conducting training classes on the software for the months of July and August at UCT in rooms 1505A and B. Below is a schedule of class times and dates for July. (Look for August's schedule in a future issue of *Scoop*). For more information see <www.uth.tmc.edu/uth_orgs/pub_affairs/mm/jun_98/buycard.html>. July's class dates are: July 13, 14, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31. All classes are from 9-11 a.m., and 2-4 p.m., at UCT 1505A and B. To reserve your time, contact **Lori Hill**, 500-4715.

Thursday, July 16

FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AT WEBBER PLAZA

It's not too late to throw in a non-perishable can of food or two in those boxes located near the ground elevators for the sixth annual *Spirit of Texas* TMC's Food Drive next Thursday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Webber Plaza. Show you care! Some hungry small folks will appreciate it. "Party on Webber Plaza" will be jumping with live music from Wilfred Chevis & the Texas Zydeco. "Art Cars" like Dusty Dave the Dolphin, at right, will also be on display, courtesy of the Orange Show. Boxed lunches, root beer floats, hot dogs and popcorn will be sold at the plaza, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the Food Bank. Each participating institution will deliver their food donations to Webber Plaza by 12:30 p.m. for judging. The institution that collects the most food will be awarded a traveling plaque by KHOU-TV and KTRH-AM. Last year's plaque was awarded to Kelsey-Seybold Clinics for contributing more than 8,000 pounds of food. Says **Jennifer Cheeseman**, Houston Food Bank representative, "Last year the Texas Medical Center Food Drive raised over 17,000 pounds of food and \$7,670 for our neighbors in need. I am sure this year's drive will see more participation and be even more successful." The circular drive at Jones Library on the MD Anderson side will be closed; use the Ross Sterling entrance to Webber Plaza. For more information, contact **Megan Colson**, 791-6278.



M.S. IN HEALTH INFORMATICS PROGRAM DEBUTS

The School of Allied Health Sciences has received formal approval for a Master of Science in Health Informatics program. Courses will begin this fall ('98). Explained **Dr. Doris Ross**, Dean Pro Tem, SAHS, "**Dr. Jack Smith** is the Chair of the newly created Department of Health Informatics, SAHS, and also a faculty member in the Medical School's Department of Pathology. **Dr. Robert Hunter**, UT Chair, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and I recruited him. We're just so excited. Our hope is to have an interdisciplinary student body of M.D.s, R.N.s, and various health professionals." For more information, contact **Debbie Todd**, Director of Admissions, SAHS, 500-3903.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



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Monday, July 6

UT EMPLOYEES BRIEFED AT GROUP INSURANCE MEETING

“The fate of OneCare physicians is the major concern of UT-Houston employees right now as they try to make decisions about their health benefits during the current enrollment period, July 1 - 31,” says **Ed Fullerton**, Manager of Benefits for the HSC. Approximately half of the employees who participate in the Dual Option Plan are signed up with a OneCare physician, explains Fullerton. This week at the second Benefits presentation at the Medical School the most frequently asked question was, “If my primary care physician is a OneCare doctor, will he or she be available after Sept. 1?” Fullerton’s response was, “We are working on it. Read the benefits booklet and make your choices. There is every incentive, both for UT-Houston and NYLCare, to not disturb the network of providers,” he assured his listeners. Also, he said that even though NYLCare recently was taken over by Aetna, UT-H has been assured that there will be not significant changes for the next two years.

Fullerton points out other differences employees should consider:

- Regarding the Dental Plan - Delta Prevent includes cleaning and X-rays twice a year only. If other dental procedures are required, they are not covered. Delta Standard is more comprehensive.
- Those who participate in UT Flex, either under dependent care reimbursement or the medical reimbursement programs, need to re-enroll during July, even if there are no other changes on their benefits. Also, don’t forget the use it or lose it feature. An employee must use up the money in their Flex account by getting reimbursed for incurred charges up to the end of August. Claims must be filed by Nov. 30, Fullerton reminds.
- For employees who have children, who need routine care and are in school in other Texas cities or out-of-state, Fullerton believes UT Select is a good plan. CIGNA has a provider network in almost every major city. The plan has a \$250 deductible after which the plan member pays 15% of allowed charges. It ends up being less costly than the Dual Option, which has a \$500 deductible after which the plan member pays 30% if the visit is a non-emergency.
- An employee can access a network specialist directly through UT Select.
- A directory of providers and a comparison of benefits between plans is available by calling 500-3935.
- On page 8 of the Benefit Information booklet, the statement in the third bullet “The Network Deductible will not count toward the Out-of-Network deductibles, but the Out-of-Network deductibles will count toward the Network Deductibles” is correct. That same statement is incorrectly reversed at the bottom of that same page.

Fullerton is available by phone (500-3951) to answer all questions and receives between 40 and 70 per day. Some employees tell him what their family situation is and he recommends the plan they should choose. “Currently there is no benefit booklet for UT Select,” explains Fullerton. “That is being developed. So when employees have specific questions about medical conditions being covered, I call Austin and get back to the employee as quickly as possible.”



Good Health

Summer Time Outdoor Eating Safety Tips

Eating outdoors and picnicking are fun summer time activities, but serving food in the Texas heat can put you and your family at risk of food poisoning, which affects between 21 and 81 million Americans each year. Precautions begin during the food preparation with clean hands. One-third of all reported cases of food poisoning is the direct result of the cook not washing his or her hands. Keep all surfaces clean - hands, utensils, counters, cutting boards and sinks. That way, your food will stay as safe as possible. Another important way to reduce the risk of contamination is to wipe up spills with paper towels, which can be discarded, rather than a sponge that absorbs and spreads the bacteria around. Should the unpleasant happen, common signs of food poisoning are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramping. Typically these signs will begin six-to-eight hours after eating contaminated food. It is a good idea to see the doctor if these signs are severe or persist. If you are immune suppressed and develop these signs, immediate medical attention is essential.