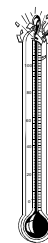




# Scoop



Friday, July 17, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL


## EVENTS TO KNOW:



► **Dr. Benjy Brooks** will be honored in a special tribute on Thursday, July 30 at 3 p.m. in 3.001 (See *Scoop*, 6/12/98). Faculty, Alumni, Friends invited. Reception follows.

► **Dean's Lecture Series Nominations** due to Medical School's Research Committee by Friday, July 31. Include complete name, title, school, mailing address, and area of expertise, attention: **Dr. John H. Byrne**, MSB 7.046.

## UTmost Interest

**Dean Buja** was featured on the front-page of the first issue of *Houston Healthcare Journal* (July 1998)...**Dr. Terry Clyburn**, Orthopaedics, demonstrated current concepts in total hip arthroplasty and postoperative rehabilitation at  **Hot News** Nanjing Medical University, China...**Dr. Barry Kahan**, Director, Division of Immunology and Organ Transplantation, is announcing the clinical trial results of a new immunosuppressant, Rapamycin, at The Transplantation Society XVII World Congress, this month in Montreal...**Dr. Sudhir Paul**, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, is heading up the newly created Clinical Immunology and Therapeutics Research Center...**Gaurav Aggar**, MS II, and **Sue-Mi Cha**, MS II, have both received the Jeanne Spurlock Clinical Fellowship in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.



## KID NECK AND HEAD INJURIES

**Dr. Red Duke's** Health Report will feature Kid Neck Injuries, Preven-

tion, and Spinal Cord Injury. He can be seen on Channel 13 on Sundays, between 7 - 9 a.m. For information, call **Tamara Nesser**, 500-8403.



**Drs. Norris and Weinstock**

## MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY FEATURED IN SCIENCE

A joint effort among two Medical School professors, **Dr. George Weinstock**, Microbiology, and **Dr. Steven J. Norris**, Pathology, along with **Dr. Claire M. Fraser** at The Institute for Genomic Research, Rockville, Maryland, has resulted in the sequencing of the entire genome for syphilis, a two-year process, (See *Scoop*, 12/13/96). The results are a genetic blueprint for diagnostic testing and perhaps even a vaccine. A press conference held yesterday at the Medical School presented the details, which are being published in today's issue of the journal *Science*. Development of diagnostic testing procedures will help detect the often elusive 500-year old disease before permanent damage occurs in patients.

## COLLABORATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME EVEN IF IT IS HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD

Reproductive research has always been a major part of **Dr. Yusoff Dawood's** 30-year medical career, and now he is going halfway around the world to collect specimens and continue his work. Dawood is the Berel Held, M.D., Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. One of Dawood's research projects is to understand the corpus luteum, the tissue which fills the space when an egg is released and produces a hormone that supports the womb lining in preparation for pregnancy. If pregnancy does not occur, this tissue shrinks and menstruation begins. "We need to know at the molecular level what is happening with the different types of cells in this corpus luteum," explains Dawood. "The goal is to understand early pregnancy and why women miscarry in the first few days, and I believe the answer is in this tissue. Eventually, it might be possible to strengthen this corpus luteum and help the woman avoid a loss." Collecting this tissue for research has become increasingly difficult. For years Dawood maintained baboons for this purpose because of their similarity to humans - the females have 30-day cycles, hormone changes and ovulate at mid-cycle. Learning of Dr. Dawood's expertise in the use of primates in reproductive research, **Dr. Charanjit Bamba**, Director of the Institute for Primate Research of the Kenya National Museum, invited the UT-Houston researcher to visit South Africa and begin a teamwork approach. Four months ago Dr. Dawood spent nine days at the institute and collected the needed primate tissue, and in return, he taught the Kenya scientists how to do laparoscopy and how to remove ovaries using his methods. Also being studied at the Institute is endometriosis, a major research area of Dawood. "I have worked on endometriosis for years and never had a suitable animal model. Now I find out that this condition occurs naturally in baboons," he says. He will be returning to South Africa later this year to continue his cooperative endeavor.



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HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education