



Scoop



Friday, January 22, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Mini-Rodeo**, M lot, across from Hornberger, Sat., **Jan. 23**. Free with I.D. badge.
- **Lunch & Learn Seminar**, Wed., **Jan. 27**, "How Food Affects Your Mental Well-Being," noon, (bring lunch), 2.103.
- **MSRDP Annual Meeting**, all faculty members, Wed., **Feb. 3**, 4 pm, 3.001.
- **Dean's Lecturer, Dr. Michael J. Welsh**, "From Cystic Fibrosis to CFTR and Back," Wed., **Feb. 10**, 4 p.m., 3.001.

HONDURAN HURRICANE HELP

Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball is sponsoring a medical mission to Honduras to help hurricane victims **Feb. 25-March 3**. Physicians, particularly those who can treat patients with intestinal and skin problems, are needed. Expenses will be paid. If interested, call **Don Reimer**, Board of Directors, 281-320-9027.

NEW DRUG BREAKTHROUGH FOR WORLD TRAVELERS

"There have been no new non-antibiotic prescription medications introduced for treating traveler's diarrhea symptoms in over two decades," emphasized **Dr. Herbert DuPont**, the Mary Kelsey Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases.



Along comes SP-303, a new kid on the block that is definitely not a gamish of chicken soup. Said DuPont, "It may be the most potent antisecretory agent available" to treat the ailment. Harvested from the Croton tree, SP-303 grows in rainforests in Latin America, where it has long been used by the indigenous people of the area. Taking a dose of the medicine 250 mg four times a day showed partial or complete improvement within the first 24 hours for 90% of patients in trial tests. While SP-303 is not yet available commercially, other state-of-the-art drugs are. The Travel Medicine Center in the Hermann Professional Building, 6410 Fannin, 6th floor, has **Dr. Charles Ericsson** available Tuesdays and Thursdays, and **Dr. Pablo Okhuysen** and **Dr. Robert Rakita** on Fridays to help with specific immunizations and medications needed for their destinations. Call 713-704-4317.

NOBEL LAUREATE FERID MURAD IS NEW IMM DIRECTOR

Nobel Laureate **Dr. Ferid Murad**, chairman of the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, was named Director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, at a special press conference Thurs., January 21. **President M. David Low**, **Dean L. Maximilian Buja**, and **Dr. Tom Burks** participated in the press conference. Dr. Murad will also continue his duties as departmental chair. Murad replaces **Dr. Hans Müller-Eberhard**, who died March 3, 1998, in the leadership role of the IMM. Müller-Eberhard is credited with the statement "You really have to know a disease to prevent it. You have to know the disease mechanisms at the cellular level and at the protein molecular level. Many diseases have a genetic basis either because they are inherited or because genes mutate during a person's lifetime." Dr. Müller-Eberhard's wife, **Dr. Irma Gigli**, is a UT-Houston professor in Internal Medicine and Dermatology and is director of the IMM's Immunology Center. (See *Scoop*, March 6, 1998).

PREVENTION OF SUDDEN DEATH IS CARDIOLOGY THEME

The focus of the Ninth Annual Preventive Cardiology Forum is "Prevention of Sudden Death." The Saturday, **February 13** event will be 7 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., in the Medical School, room 3.001. Dean **Max Buja** will welcome the attendees.



Dr. Francisco Fuentes

Dr. Francisco Fuentes, a professor in the Division of Cardiology, originated this free-of-charge continuing education event, which is designed for physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals, who need to know more about preventive cardiology.

This multi-institutional activity includes UT-Houston's schools of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing as well as Texas Children's Hospital, Hermann Hospital, Hermann Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine and the American Heart Association.

Topics and presenters from UT are: "The Pathology of Sudden Death," **Dr. Buja**; "Women and Sudden Death," **Dr. Anne Dougherty**, Cardiology; "Spontaneous Plaque Rupture, Coronary Thrombosis and Sudden Death: What Can We Do To Prevent This Lethal Cascade?," **Dr. Richard Smalling**, Cardiology; and "Stroke and Sudden Death," **Dr. James C. Grotta**, Neurology. Also on the agenda are "Prevention of Sudden Death in Children and Adolescents," **Dr. Jeffrey Towbin**, Texas Children's Hospital, and "Ensuring the Chain of Survival in Your Community," **Dr. David E. Persse**, Director of Emergency Medical Services, City of Houston. Registration deadline is **February 9**. Call 713 500-6579.

PIONEERING MENTORING PROGRAM TAKES A FRESH LOOK

Dean Max Buja will open a mentoring workshop being facilitated by **Dr. Anna Steinberger**, Office of Faculty Affairs, on Tues., **Feb. 9**, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., 5th floor gallery. Mentoring plays a significant role in faculty development. All UT-Houston faculty are invited to attend. The main objective of the program is to highlight the key features of successful mentoring and how they relate to academic career advancement. Seven panelists will address such topics as "The Need for Mentoring/Multiple Mentors" and "Perceived and Real Obstacles to Mentoring." For more information, contact Dr. Steinberger at 713-500-5102.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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CALLING ALL UT - HOUSTON CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCHERS

The second annual "Heart of Houston Researchers' Reception," sponsored by the American Heart Association/Houston Division, will "Celebrate the Power of Research In Our Community" on Wednesday, **February 24**, 6 – 8 p.m., at the Museum of Health and Medical Science. The Houston Division began the event in 1998 to honor researchers and say 'thank you' for their contributions to saving lives.



Drs. Thomas DuBose, left, **Dianna Milewicz**, **Heinrich Taegtmeier**, **Julia Lever**, **Francisco Fuentes**, and **Richard Smalling** were among the UT-H researchers honored in 1998 at the first *Heart of Houston* event sponsored by the American Heart Association, Houston Division. The second annual reception will be **February 24** at the Museum of Health and Medical Science.

Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery. Drs. Frazier and Smalling are UT-H faculty members and Dr. Towbin is a Baylor professor.

Nationally and locally, the AHA has a decades-long history of fighting heart disease and stroke through cutting-edge scientific advances and innovative educational programs. Among the AHA's lifesaving breakthroughs are CPR, pacemakers, and bypass surgery. What distinguishes the AHA's research funding process from others is the fact that it has a strong allegiance to the young investigator, who often have a difficult time securing funding from the federal government and other sources.

Although the AHA/Texas Affiliate awards grants to seasoned researchers, it spends twice as much funding on beginning grants-in-aid for young investigators because this allows the young researcher to gather the data needed to compete for federal funding in the future. Researchers, call 713 610-5000 to RSVP.

Hosts for the '99 event are members of the Division's board and a committee from the community including **Congressman and Mrs. Bill Archer**, **Congressman and Mrs. Ken Bentsen Jr.**, **Mayor and Mrs. Lee Brown**, the **Honorable and Mrs. Bob Lanier** and **Mr. and Mrs. Ken Lay**.

Dr. and Mrs. Ferid Murad are the honorary chairmen. **Dr. Murad**, chairman of The University of Texas-Houston Medical School's Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, is a co-recipient of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. The chairmen for the event are **Dr. and Mrs. L. Maximilian Buja** and **Dr. and Mrs. Tim Garson**. Dr. Buja is Dean of the UT-Houston Medical School, and Dr. Garson is Senior Vice President and Dean for Academic Operations at Baylor College of Medicine. He also is President Elect of the American College of Cardiology. Donna Buja and Suzan Garson took the lead in planning the event.

The "from bench to bedside" stories of three cardiovascular physicians will be illustrated on three-sided kiosks, which will remain on view through February. Featured on the more than six feet tall back-lighted displays will be **Dr. O. Howard Frazier**, Texas Heart Institute, **Dr. Richard Smalling**, Hermann Hospital, and **Dr. Jeffrey Towbin**, Texas Children's Hospital. Dr. Smalling is the incoming president of the board of the AHA, Texas Affiliate. Dr. Frazier is also director of the UT-Houston

TOWN HALL MEETING PRESENTERS PROVIDE UPDATE

At a Town Hall meeting, Friday, Jan. 15, **President M. David Low**, **Executive Vice-Presidents Dr. Tom Burks** and **Mr. John Porretto**, discussed topics ranging from research funding, to continuous improvement, to capital expenditures with a crowd of 150 people in 3.001.

- ◆ Some of the points covered included:
- ◆ Grant and research funding is up and students are doing well
- ◆ The search for a Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences continues
- ◆ Research Support Services supports P.I.s (principal investigators)
- ◆ UT-H has a total of 5100 employees - faculty, staff, and house staff - and an annual operating budget of \$420 million
- ◆ UT-Houston is among the top 25 in terms of regional businesses
- ◆ Administration is monitoring employees' medical insurance costs
- ◆ Information Services is using an imbedded chip for the Y2K problem and it is important for UT-Houston to be compliant with the state's requirements in order to avoid possible litigation
- ◆ The Mental Sciences Institute building was sold for \$15 million to M. D. Anderson, and will be rebuilt at the Harris County Psychiatric Center, south of the Center's current parking lot
- ◆ There will be increased emphasis on research, especially in child development
- ◆ There will be increased emphasis on heart disease, stroke, and distance education
- ◆ The \$20 million in PUF funding to repair exterior cladding and improve indoor air quality will need to be supplemented with additional funding
- ◆ Our research expenditures are over \$100 million.