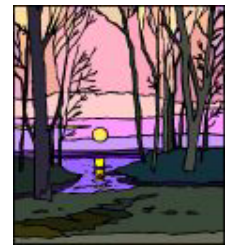




Scoop



Friday, October 22, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Clinical Research Curriculum Introductory Course**, Wed., Oct. 27, 5 - 6:30 p.m., presented by **Dr. Ralph Frankowski**, "Introductory Statistics."
- **UT-H SON, Dr. Jon Tyson**, "Use of Proven Therapies in Clinical Practice and Research: How Can We Better Serve Our Patients and Our Families?" Fri., Oct. 29, 12:30-1:30 p.m., HMB 4.416.
- **William S. Fields Lecture**, Thurs., Nov. 4, noon, **Dr. Marcus Raichle**, "Imaging Human Brain Function," MSB 3.001.
- **The Henry W. Withers Lectureship in Family Practice**, Wed., Nov. 10, **Dr. Alfred O. Berg**, "Evidence-Based Prevention: Advice from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force," MSB 2.006.

DR. CLANTON SPEARHEADS FREE DIABETIC FOOT TESTINGS



Dr. Thomas Clanton

Dr. Thomas O. Clanton, Orthopaedics chair, and past president, Houston Orthopaedic Society, and Texas Society for Sports Medicine, is spearheading free diabetic foot screenings, to be held around town the week of **Nov. 8 - 13**. They are: Tuesday, **November 9**, 9 a.m. - noon, University Center for Orthopaedics & Rheumatology, 6410 Fannin, #1100; Wednesday, **November 10**, 1 - 4 p.m., University of Texas Endocrinology Office, 6410 Fannin, #1400; Thursday, **November 11**, 1 - 4 p.m., Wound Care Center, Memorial Hermann Hospital, 6411 Fannin, 2nd floor Robertson; and Saturday, **November 13**, 9 a.m. - noon, Second Baptist Church, Family Life Center, 6400 Woodway @ Voss. To schedule an appointment, call 1-888-4UTDOCS.

The AOFAS says that last year 67,000 people with diabetes had foot amputations that could have been prevented in most cases. People with diabetes can have foot and ankle problems that include ulceration, infection, and gangrene. Nerve damage and loss of circulation are also major causes of foot problems in those with the disease.

DR. GROTTA REPORTS IN SEATTLE ON NOVEL LAB FINDINGS

Dr. James C. Grotta, Neurology, and colleagues **Dr. Jarek Aronowski** and **Roger Strong**, reported to a meeting of the American Neurological Association in Seattle last week that combining alcohol and caffeine, in proper doses, can offer protection to the brain if given within a two-hour window of a stroke attack. The investigators induced ischemic strokes, caused by blocked arteries, in laboratory rats, and then tested the ability of an alcohol-caffeine mixture to reduce brain damage. Stroke treatment in humans normally includes the drug t-PA, a tissue plasminogen activator, which cuts down on the number of cell deaths after a brain attack. The alcohol-caffeine mixture might someday be used along with t-PA, but the team emphasizes that more tests are needed before the alcohol-caffeine findings could be applied to humans.



Dr. James Grotta

1999 RESEARCH RETREAT A SUCCESS

More than 100 clinical and basic scientists from the Medical School's faculty met at The Woodlands Conference Center last weekend (Oct. 15-16) to compare notes on research strengths, future directions, opportunities and needs. During the day and a half event, participants listened to 12 timely presentations organized around four key areas: neurosciences, cardiovascular function and disease, immunology, and cell signaling.

Summary breakout sessions were led by **Drs. John Byrne, James Willerson, Irma Gigli, and Ferid Murad**, who also chaired the respective symposia listed above. Keynote speaker, **Dr. Judith L. Vaitukaitis**, director of the National Center for Research Resources at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), addressed current funding issues and projections while more than 40 poster presentations were made. See next week's *Scoop* for highlights from overviews presented by **Drs. David Low, Tom Burks, and Max Buja**. Congratulations to the Medical School's Research Committee, chaired by Byrne, for coordinating this important event and special thanks to Berlex Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Parke-Davis for generous contributions to support this year's retreat.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Richard W. Smalling, Cardiology, was in Austin recently for the American Heart Association (AHA) meeting of the Texas Affiliate Board of Directors and Standing Committees. Smalling is the AHA state president. **Nora K. Shire**, Community Affairs and Public Education, attended the Underserved Markets Committee meeting. **Dr. Francisco Fuentes**, Cardiology, is also a member of that committee...**Dr. Virginia Moyer**, Pediatrics and Center for Evidence-Based Medicine and Population Health, will address an AHCPR conference on Methodological Challenges in the Production and Synthesis of Knowledge, with the topic "Methods Issues in Child Health: Evidence Syntheses," in Arlington, Virginia...**Dr. Alan Buchman**, Gastroenterology, was sought for advice on a novel approach to intestinal disease, "Nature's Remedy/Doses of Worms May Relieve Intestinal Disease," *Houston Chronicle*, Mon., Oct. 18, p.7D.

FREE FLU SHOTS -

Leather Lounge, Monday, **Nov. 1** and Thursday, **Nov. 4**, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring I.D. Badges.

FYI - Copies of the Fannin Street Project insert from *TMC News* (dated 10/15/99) available, Office of Community Affairs, G.004.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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October Employee of the Month - Elizabeth Martin

The computer doc is in. Our October Employee-of-the-Month, **Elizabeth Martin**, is a network support specialist who works in the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and knows her computers. She manages numerous servers: the SUN Sparc IPC Station file, DEC Alpha Station mail, HP 715 mail file, Net Blazer dial-in PPP, and WIN NT Domain WINS and Web servers. "That's 4 WIN NT servers, 4 UNIX servers, 80 PCs and 30 MACs," Elizabeth proudly tells you.



A seven-year veteran of the department this coming **January 3rd**, Elizabeth works with 135 people, including chair and Nobel laureate **Dr. Ferid Murad**, pc specialist **Jeff Martin**, and associate professor, **Dr. David Loose-Mitchell**. She is known for her ability to encourage computer aptitudes in those around her. "As a member of the Association for Women in Computing, I like to encourage others, particularly women, into technical fields."



With her husband **Charles**, an antique store owner, Elizabeth socializes in her spare time with "Daisy," a six-pound miniature Doberman pinscher who's very talkative. "You could hold her in the palms of your hands."

When asked how she got into the technical field, Elizabeth replies, "Daddy got me tinkering with car starters when I was 12." Fortunately for her department, the girl that grew up ready to tackle problems as if they were puzzles to be put back together, infuses that resourcefulness into everything she does.

UCSC SCHOLARSHIP FUND'S GOAL IS \$15,000 THIS YEAR

Anthony Garcia, Pediatrics, and University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) Chair, says a big "thank you" to all those who've donated to the *UCSC Scholarship Fund*, set up this year for children of classified employees. Total donations to date, including those raised at "Party in the Park" last week, are \$671. The goal of the program is to raise \$15,000 annually, so that several scholarships can be awarded. A donation of \$5 from each classified staff employee would reach that goal. For further information, contact **Anthony Garcia**, 713/500-5706, or **Sherry Dunn**, 713/500-5505.



Eligible applicants include high school students who are U.S. citizens, and a daughter or son of a UT-HHSC classified employee. Applications must be submitted by **April 15** to: *UCSC Scholarship Program*, University of

Texas - Houston Health Science Center, PO Box 20708, Houston, TX 77225. Forms should include: SAT score, GPA, completed application, two letters of reference, a high school transcript, a one-page essay double spaced, on career goals, and a letter of acceptance from an accredited school. See the website <http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/special_interest/committees/ucsc/> and click on UCSC Scholarship Program for details.



Dr. John Harris

DR. HARRIS IS COLUMBIA U.'S VISITING PROFESSOR

Dr. John Harris, Radiology, and John S. Dunn Distinguished Chair in Radiology, presented two lectures as Visiting Professor at Columbia University and the Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York. He addressed "Acute Cervical Spine Injuries Characterized by Anterior Translation" and "Pelvic Ring Disruption and Lower Urinary Tract Injuries."

DR. MURAD REFLECTS ON A NOBEL YEAR

Nobel laureate Dr. Ferid Murad, chair, Integrative Biology & Pharmacology, director, Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, was featured this past week in a retrospective of his life as a Nobel laureate in the *Houston Chronicle*, October 18 edition, p. 15A. Murad won the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with two colleagues for research into nitric oxide.

CITY OF HOPE DEVELOPS LEADERS THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE FELLOWSHIP

The City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute (COHNMC/BRI), 25 miles northeast of Los Angeles, are offering a position in the Administrative Fellowship Program, a one-year position, to begin in July 2000. The program is designed to cultivate leaders in the field of research administration in an academically-oriented health-care environment. Interested candidates should be currently enrolled, or have completed an accredited graduate program.



The City of Hope, founded in 1913, is one of only 35 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the United States. It is the largest provider of bone marrow transplantation services in California. On its 110-acres work more than 300 physicians and scientists, with interests from the prevention and treatment of cancer and other life-threatening illnesses, to diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other diseases of the immune system.

The deadline for fellowship applications is Tuesday, **November 30**. The following is required: a resume with a cover letter, a personal statement of interest, three letters of recommendation, including two from professors and one from a current/past employer, and official graduate school transcripts. Submit materials to: **Ms. Marsha Emmer Addis**, Sr. VP, Research Services and Professional Education, City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute, 1500 East Duarte Rd., Duarte, CA 91010-3000. She can also be reached at 626/930-5355 or <maddis@coh.org>.