



Scoop



Happy Chinese New Year

Friday, February 26, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

► **Mini Symposium**, "New Aspects of Cardiac Metabolism and Gene Expression," Thurs., **March 4** & Fri., **March 5**, MSB 2.135, call 713-500-6569.

► **Fourth Annual Public Forum for Brain Awareness Week**, a free event, "The Aging Brain," Tues., **March 16**, 5:30-7 p.m., or Sat., **March 20**, 10:30 a.m.-noon, MSB 3.001.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Richard Andrassy, Surgery, was the John Schullinger Visiting Professor in Surgical Oncology at Babies & Children's Hospital, Columbia/Presbyterian Hospital in New York City...**Dr.**

Hot News **David Mercer**, Surgery, was elected Secretary of the Society of University Surgeons (SUS); the international SUS meeting in 2003 will be hosted in Houston by the Medical School...**Dr. Chris Windham**, Surgery, received \$1,000 at the South Texas Chapter of the American College of Surgeons recently for an outstanding resident research paper.

JUMPSTART DEADLINE NEARS

The Office of Faculty Affairs will be accepting applications through **March 1** for short-term support (2-6 weeks), up to \$2,000, especially for mid-career faculty changing research directions. Successful faculty members' applicable fees such as course registration fees, travel and housing, will be covered. Instructions and applications are available from the Office of Faculty Affairs or from department chairs. For more information, contact: **Mary Cole**, 713-500-5100 or **Dr. Henry W. Strobel**, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, 713-500-6078.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LEAVE PROPOSALS DUE

Proposals for Faculty Development Leave are due **March 1** in the Office of Faculty Affairs, 7.130 MSB. Full-time faculty with two or more years of consecutive service are eligible. The guidelines allow for the submission of proposals twice a year (November and April) and can be found at <<http://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/Faculty/gfdlp.html>>. Questions call 500-5100.



Dr. C. Everett Koop

Holding the position of Surgeon General for eight years during the 1980's, he spoke on prominent issues, including AIDS, the importance of immunization and disease prevention, environmental health hazards, smoking, diet, and nutrition. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including 37 honorary doctorates, and is the author of more than 230 articles and books in medicine. He was awarded an Emmy in 1991, for his five-part series on health care reform. Two films from that series, "Forever Young," on aging, and "Listening to Teenagers," on family dynamics, were awarded Freddies the following year.

DR. C. EVERETT KOOP HERE MARCH 17

Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General, will be here the day before Match Day, Wednesday, **March 17**, to speak on "Ten Critical Health Issues for the 21st Century," 1 - 2 p.m., MSB 3.001. He will also hold a question and answer forum at the SPH Auditorium, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., entitled "Conversation With Dr. Koop." Later that day he'll meet with the UT-Houston Executive Council. Said **Dr. Stan Reiser**, Griff T. Ross Professor of Humanities and Technology in Health Care, "Dr. Koop is a national treasure who speaks with candor, great knowledge and eloquence about the major health events of our times. He is not to be missed." Dr. Koop, born in Brooklyn, received his M.D. from Cornell University, and became a pediatric surgeon.

CARDIAC/GENE MINI SYMPOSIUM DEBUTS MARCH 4 - 5

The focus of this year's mini symposium, "New Aspects of Cardiac Metabolism and Gene Expression," **March 4-5**, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., MSB 2.135, brings together "a unique group of investigators from both UT Houston and around the world," commented **Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier**, Cardiology (See *Scoop* 12/11/98). Organizers **Drs. Taegtmeier, Daniel Kelly**, Washington University in St. Louis, and **Ger van der Vusse**, University of The Netherlands, say the cardiovascular field is fast-moving and rapidly developing. Physicians from England, Holland, Belgium, South Africa, as well as Harvard, Yale, Washington University, and Scripps Institute of California, will be in attendance. Topics and presenters include: "Welcome," **Dean Max Buja**; "Metabolic Profiles of the Heart," **Dr. Taegtmeier**; "Genetic Control of Cardiac Energy Metabolism," **Dr. Rodney Kellems**; "Gene Expression in Skeletal Muscle Hypertrophy," **Dr. Frank Booth**; "Regulation of Energy Metabolism During Acute Increase in Heart Work," **Dr. Gary Goodwin**; "Regulation of Cytochrome C Gene Activation in Neonatal Rat Cardiomyocytes," **Dr. Jeanie McMillin**; "Palmitate-Mediated Alterations in Fatty Acid Metabolism in the Neonatal Cardiac Myocyte," **Dr. Diane Bick**; "Antisense Oligodeoxynucleoties for Selective Inhibition of Gene Expression *In Vivo* and *In Vitro*," **Dr. Stanislaw Stepkowski** and "Retinoids and Thiazolidinediones: Tissue-specific Regulators of Insulin Sensitivity," **Dr. Harleen Singh Ahuja**. Buffet dinner, March 3, 6-8 p.m., Hilton Plaza Hotel; for free registration call 713-500-6569.



SECC NOTE - Final tally for the '98 State Employee Charitable Campaign topped \$148,000, beating '97's efforts by 41%. UT-Houston retains its #1 status in raising the most money of all State Agencies for the Texas Gulf Coast Region (See *Scoop* 11/13/98).

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



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Matching Activities

Matching - Match Day is set to take place at Webber Plaza, Thursday, **March 18**, at 11 a.m. At that time (noon Eastern Standard Time) all medical school seniors in the country find out where they will spend their residency.



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Houston International Festival will be held downtown on the weekends of **April 17-18**, and **April 24-25**. This year's theme will be the nations of Southern Africa, including: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Also, UT-Houston's International Festival Committee will be hosting an international photography exhibition and their International Festival Day is Friday **April 9**. The committee is looking for photos reflecting not just one continent but "the entire multicultural global community," said **Eleese Jenkins**, community services manager. For more information and submission guidelines call (713) 500-3035. Space is limited. The exhibit is scheduled to be in the Medical School the week of April 5.

UT HOUSE MEDICS SPRING PROGRAM

Come join the 8th annual UT-House Medics volunteer project. Since 1991, UT-Houston has refurbished 46 houses. Last year the UT House Medics Roving Crew received the "Golden Hammer" award. The house docs will be making house calls on Sat., **April 17**, and Sat., **April 24**, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Some elderly homeowners in our community are unable to keep their houses painted and in good repair. Step up to the plate with UTHM. Bring your scrapers, hammers, and paint brushes to lend a helping hand for these deserving folks. Join the T-shirt design contest; submissions due **March 5**. To complete a sign up form, see colleagues in action, or to get information on the design contest, visit the Web page at: http://admin5.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ishome/special_pro/housemed.html.



RODEO DAYS ARE WINDING DOWN

Saturday, **Feb. 27**, 11 a.m., *Black Heritage Day* will feature Brian McKnight, and '99 Grammy nominee for Rhythm and Blues song, Monica. Sunday, **Feb. 28** at 4 p.m., *Go Tejano Day* at the rodeo will feature David Lee Garza y Los Musicales with fellow musicians Emilio, Ram Herrera, Jay Perez, and Oscar G.



SANBORN SPEAKS ON HORMONES AND CALCIUM

On Monday **March 1**, 4 - 5 p.m., **Dr. Barbara Sanborn**, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, will be lecturing on "Hormones and Calcium: Mechanisms Controlling Uterine Smooth Muscle Contractile Activity" at the University of Houston, S&R 1 Building, Room 634. Sanborn researches the control of uterine contraction, saying "the rise of calcium is a signal for contraction and its decrease is a signal for relaxation." She focuses on exploring the pathways that control calcium in the muscular layer of the uterine wall and how hormones affect those pathways. A hoped for application from her research could be good intervention during preterm labor and helping babies reach full term.

NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER COSPONSORS TALKS

Peer through **Dr. Phyllis Wise's** window into the aging brain as part of a lecture co-sponsored by the Neuroscience Research Center and the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Services. **Dr. Phyllis Wise**, a professor and chair of Physiology from the University of Kentucky, College of Medicine, Lexington, Kentucky, will speak on "Neuroendocrine Contributions and Repercussions of the Menopause: A Window into the Aging Brain," noon, Tuesday, **March 9**, MSB Room 1.006. Also **Dr. Emil Cocaro**, a professor of psychiatry, from MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, will lecture on the "Biology and Treatment of Impulsive Aggression," sponsored by the Neuroscience Research Center and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, 11 a.m., Wednesday, **March 10**, MSI Auditorium, Room 110.

ESTROGEN LECTURER TO SPEAK ON MARCH 15

The Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Lecture and the Department of Internal Medicine Clinicopathological Conference will be held, Monday, **March 15**, 1999, at noon in MSB 3.001. **Dr. Suzanne Oparil**, Director, Vascular Biology and Hypertension Program of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will address "Estrogen and Vasoprotection." All faculty and staff are encouraged to come hear her speak.



Dr. Suzanne Oparil

CANCER CONTROL 2001 AT SPH ON MARCH 17

Dr. Barbara K. Rimer, director of the Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute, will present "Cancer Control 2001" on Wednesday, **March 17**, from noon - 1:30 p.m., in The University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health Auditorium, 1200 Herman Pressler. A reception will follow in room 102B. Lunch will be provided for the first 75 attendees. Parking is available at Texas Medical Center Garage 2 at Holcombe Blvd. and Bertner Ave. Hosted by the Center for Health Promotion Research and Development, it's part of The John P. McGovern Award Lecture in Health Promotion. Before her work at the National Cancer Institute, Rimer was professor of Community and Family Medicine at Duke University Medical Center and director of Cancer Control from 1991 - 1997. From 1981 - 1991, she held leadership positions in behavioral research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She previously worked at the Johns Hopkins Oncology Center School of Hygiene and Public Health and Wayne State University School of Medicine. Rimer has over 180 scientific publications and is the co-editor of the book entitled, *Health Behavior and Health Education: Theory, Research, and Practice*. For additional information, call **Sharon Cummings** at (713) 500-9621.



Dr. Barbara Rimer