



Scoop



Father's Day June 20

Friday, June 11, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **First UT-Houston Faculty Research Development Forum**, Mon., **June 14**, 10 - 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.103. Junior and senior faculty welcome. For information, call **Kathleen Cook**, 713-500-9053.
- **Take Our Children To Work**, Wed., **June 16**, 9 - 11:25 a.m. To volunteer, call **Araceli Alvarez**, 713-500-3868.

REFERENCE MANAGER 9.0

On Wednesday, **June 16**, 2-4 p.m., HAM-TMC Library, HIEC classroom, lower level, a free demo of *Reference Manager 9.0* will take place. The powerful and user-friendly software is especially useful to researchers with large reference database information. A member of the audience will be chosen to receive a copy of this latest reference tool. Call 713-799-7803 for more information.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Linda Perkowski, Educational Programs, was recently appointed to the regional post of chair of the SGEA (Southern Group on Educational Affairs)...**Liliana Rodriguez R.M.** (AAM),



Microbiology course director, presented two lectures on teaching strategies at the LXXIII meeting of the Mexican Association of Microbiology & Parasitology Teachers at Medical Schools, in Guadalajara, Mexico...**Dr. Harvey Rosenberg**, Pathology, had a Festschrift dedicated to him in the May - June issue of *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*...June 1 marked **Dr. Al Gunn's** 20th anniversary as Associate Dean of Admissions at the Medical School.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The Texas Medical Association (TMA) has a position paper, *Teen Pregnancy Prevention*. This paper informs physicians on the stats on teen pregnancy in Texas and the U.S. and provides information on which teen pregnancy prevention programs work. It includes resource contacts available to doctors. For more information, access <<http://www.texmed.org/>>. Click on Health & Science, then click on "Position Paper on Teen Pregnancy Prevention."

FACULTY AND STUDENTS HONORED AT JUNE 4 EVENT

A first-time ever faculty *Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Award for Humanism in Medicine* was given to **Dr. John R. Stroehlein**, Department of Internal Medicine, at the Medical School's 1999 Senior Awards Ceremony Friday, June 4. **Dr. Margaret Uthman**, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, received the *John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award*. **Dr. Octavio Pinell**, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, was awarded the *John P. McGovern Award*. **Dr. Donald Nino**, '83, received the *1999 Distinguished Alumnus Award*. **Drs. Herbert L. Fred and Larry D. Scott**, Internal Medicine, received the new-this-year *Benji F. Brooks, M.D., Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award*. **Amanda Davet Weitz-Marshall** received the *Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence*, given to an outstanding graduating senior. The *Gold-Headed Cane Award For Humanism in Medicine*, given for the student's interest in the patient's welfare and determined by vote of the graduating class, was received by **Mark William Greenwell**. Congratulations to all awardees.

DR. GENG STUDIES MOLECULAR BASIS FOR PLAQUE RUPTURE

Dr. Yong-Jian Geng, recently from Harvard Medical School and now with the Department of Internal Medicine, Cardiology, has joined **Drs. James Willerson and Ward Casscells**, to advance research in atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) and apoptosis (cell death). Atherosclerosis is a major player in heart attack and stroke. Geng's focus is at the molecular level, investigating the mechanism for plaque rupture. He hopes that by studying gelsolin (a protein), inflammatory cytokines, growth factors, and using cholesterol-lowering drugs and antioxidants, his research will lead to the prevention of ruptures and apoptosis. Geng has several active NIH and AHA grants focusing on apoptosis in atherosclerosis and heart failure. His background includes working with **Dr. Peter Libby**, chief of cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and **Dr. Goran K. Hansson**, chair, cardiovascular research, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, a member of the Nobel Prize Review Committee. He has accumulated accolades such as the International Cancer Research Technology Transfer Award and the Cardiovascular Research Award. Both his published articles and invited international lectures are extensive. Geng says, "I am delighted to be here working with such well-known scientists and physicians. I hope my efforts here will contribute to further understanding the nature of cardiovascular disease."



Dr. Yong-Jian Geng

SIZZLING SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES OFFERED BY THE OCI

The Office of Continuous Improvement is sponsoring a "Sizzling Summer Speaker Series," beginning Thursday, **June 17**, with Dr. Greg Lester's "Power with People," then on Tuesday, **July 17**, Frank Bucaro's "Taking the High Road," and finally on Tuesday, **July 27**, Betty Ann Bird's, "Spirituality in the Workplace." The courses are from 8:30 a.m.-3 pm., at the Sam Houston Room, Sheraton Astrodome, 8686 Kirby Drive, and include continental breakfast and box lunch. To purchase a ticket and register, contact **Janet Smith**, 713-500-3430, or <jdsmith@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu>. A portion of the series is being underwritten by the Office of Education Access and Equity.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

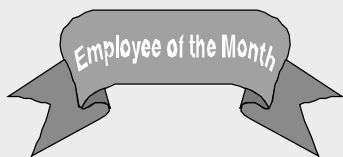
L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., Assistant Dean
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: cobrien@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu
FAX: (713) 500-0597
E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>



Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

June Employee of the Month - Kim Meiser

She's leaving for Denver, Colorado on June 23. "Oh yes I'm excited, but **Dr. Al Gunn** and **Sondra Ives** have been like family to me. I'll miss them -- and all of my other friends and co-workers around here too!" Ten years at the Medical School this October, **Kim Meiser**, Executive Assistant, Admissions, and our June Employee of the Month, leaves behind shoes that her replacement may find hard to fill. "I've always liked the job. Scheduling is kind of like putting puzzle pieces together. I get in touch with the faculty, work out their interviewing schedule, and coordinate 60 interviewees who come here to interview each week." She likes the dual nature of the work as well, she said. Besides the details, it's very people-oriented, working with applicants, students and faculty. Kim has enjoyed working closely with **Dr. Wallace Gleason** and **Dr. Kimberly Napoli**, the Assistant Deans of Admissions, as well as the 30 members of the Admissions Committee.



Her spouse **John**, a resident here in the Internal Medicine and Pediatrics program under **Dr. Mark Farnie**, will begin a two-year Allergy & Immunology fellowship in Denver. Their future after that? Well Kim's from Dallas, John's from Austin. "We'd like to get back to Texas, probably Austin." They completed the *Chicago Marathon* together two years ago, with a respectable 4:52 time. They still run recreationally, recently participating in the "1999 Statesman Capital 10,000" in Austin, a 10K run benefiting the Children's Hospital of Austin. Kim and John also play on a coed soccer team in Houston, and look forward to hiking, biking, skiing, and of course, running in Colorado. "We like all the outdoor stuff." When it comes to athletics, Kim and John are a 'team.'

Kim uses that team energy focus in everything she does on the job as well. "It's a very busy office, especially during interview season, but everyone works together to get the job done." From August through January, Kim's involved with a heavy interviewing process, weekly deadlines, and in the Spring, she moves to larger projects, including mailings to the 200-member first-year class, planning for its orientation, as well as gearing up for the next interview season with the faculty.

Will Kim's folks, who live in Plano, Texas, miss her? "Oh yes, but they're warming up to the idea." She's also prepared her long-haired gray cat "Max" to the idea of moving. He's been told he's going to like Denver because it's so cold and Kim explained he'll probably get shocked from electrostatic charge. Kim is one young woman who's own brand of boundless energy is sure to electrostatically charge any workforce place she's involved with in the future, as well.



DR. JOE BEDFORD PREPARES MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR PRECEPTORSHIP TSFPPP PROGRAM

"Increasing the number of Texas medical students choosing a career in family practice and teaching the concepts and skills they will need are among the objectives of this program," said **Dr. Joe Bedford**, director, Division of Predoctoral Education, Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine.



Dr. Joe Bedford, students

This summer, UT-Houston has 87 MSIs and MSIIIs participating in the *Texas Statewide Family Practice Preceptorship Program* (TSFPPP). In all, there will be 224 medical students working in physicians' offices for four weeks.

A one-day orientation prepares students for the preceptorship by instructing them in suturing, universal precautions and sterile techniques. A skill added this year is the care of the feet of patients with diabetes, one of most prevalent health conditions in Texas. Bedford, assisted by **Dr. Lewis Foxhall**, program co-director and volunteer faculty, and **Dr. Carlos Moreno**, department chair, taught the workshop. Others from the department

who help make the event a success are **Dr. Linda Nieman**, vice chairman for Educational Affairs, **Shirley Edwards**, UT-Houston's TSFPPP program coordinator, and **Dr. Mahir Parikh**, instructor.

The program's co-director is **Dr. Jack Haley**, who in 1980, was the Medical School's first TSFPPP director.



Dr. Robert M. Feldman

DR. FELDMAN HELPS GLAUCOMA PROGRAM

More than three million Americans suffer from glaucoma, the leading cause of blindness and vision loss, yet half don't know they have the disease.

Dr. Robert M. Feldman, Ophthalmology, along with **Dr. Ronald Gross** at Baylor, Pharmacia and Upjohn, and former Minnesota Twins baseball all-star **Kirby Puckett**, will team up for a special public education program called "Don't Be Blindsided!" on Wednesday, **June 16**. Elevated pressure inside the eye, changes to the optic nerve and loss of peripheral vision are symptoms. They come from an inability of the eye to properly drain the aqueous humor, which is the fluid in the back of the eye. There are usually no warning signs with glaucoma, but detection is easy and painless. Wednesday's events include: Houston City Hall awards ceremony, 10:30 a.m., and free glaucoma screenings, 901 Bagby Street, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 2002 Holcombe Blvd., 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; and the Houston Astrodome, 8400 Kirby Street, 5:30-8:30 p.m.