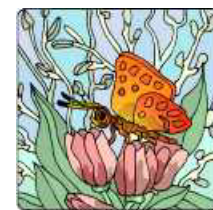




Scoop



Friday, July 23, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

➤ **Annual UT - Employee Group Insurance Open Enrollment Period Ends July 31.**

UTmost Interest

Dr. Bruce Kone, director, Clinical Pharmacology, was an invited speaker at the "International Symposium on Vasodilators in Hypertension: Nitric Oxide and Dopamine," Uppsala, Sweden. He also spoke with **Dr. Thomas DuBose**, director, Renal Diseases and Hypertension, at an international "Symposium on Potassium," Paris, France.



TALLY - UT-HHSC's total contribution to the TMC Medical Center Food Drive

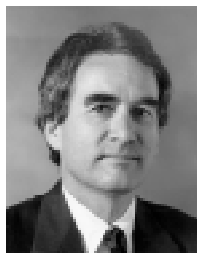
last Thursday, July 15, was \$800 in cash and 2,041 lbs. of food. The TMC Food Drive as a whole netted \$33,333 and 97,000 lbs. of food. Thanks to all who helped make the drive a success!

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR LIFE FLIGHT CREW

Speaking for the entire Medical School, **Dean Max Buja** noted earlier this week that he was greatly saddened by the tragic crash of a Life Flight helicopter Saturday, July 17. The deceased are pilot **John Pittman**, flight nurse **Lynn Ethridge**, and paramedic **Charles "Mac" Atteberry**. The Life Flight program has saved lives and flown more than 60,000 patient missions since beginning 23 years ago in 1976. This was the first fatal accident in the program's history.

The Memorial Hermann Healthcare System has announced a memorial service for the crew, to be held Sunday, **July 25**, 3 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, Westchase Campus, 3663 Westcenter Drive (corner of Beltway 8 at Westpark Drive). Later that evening, a public memorial will be held at Rice Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

DR. SMALLING NAMED TO AHA LEADERSHIP ROLE



Dr. Richard Smalling

Dr. Richard W. Smalling, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, was sworn in as president of the American Heart Association (AHA), Texas Affiliate, at the group's 1999 annual meeting in Fort Worth July 16 and 17. **Dr. David Loose-Mitchell**, Integrative Biology, is first vice president. **Dr. Lewis B. Morgenstern**, Neurology, who was the opening session/research luncheon speaker, presented on "Stroke in Texas - On the Cutting Edge of Treatment and Research." **Nora K. Shire**, Community Affairs and Public Education, was appointed to the Underserved Markets Committee and attended as a delegate. **James E. Eastham**, senior VP & CEO of Hermann Hospital, attended representing Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, a major AHA donor.

DR. MILEWICZ RECEIVES 1999 ANTOINE MARFAN AWARD

Dr. Dianna Milewicz, associate professor, Internal Medicine, and director, Medical Genetics, was named the "1999 Antoine Marfan Award" recipient at the National Marfan Foundation meeting July 8-10 in Pittsburgh for her contributions to understanding the cause and pathogenesis of Marfan's syndrome. It is an inherited disorder characterized by circulatory, ocular, and bone problems. One in 10,000 Americans have the syndrome. Abraham Lincoln was believed to have suffered from the disease. The award symbolizes further defining Marfan diagnoses and caring for patients and families. She will also be participating in a research panel on cartilage and connective tissue July 26 with the National Institute of Health/National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease. Nominated by **Dean Max Buja** and **Dr. James T. Willerson**, Milewicz was invited July 10-12 in Baltimore to the 1999 Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Professional Development Seminar for Senior Women in Medicine. Milewicz, a faculty member here since 1993, graduated from Rice University in biochemistry, and received her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from UT-Southwestern Medical School.



Dr. Dianna Milewicz

DR. TYSON ANNOUNCES TWO-YEAR CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM



Dr. Jon Tyson

Jon E. Tyson, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Population Health and Evidence-Based Medicine, announced a two-year curriculum to develop skilled clinical investigators to begin Wednesday, **September 1**. Established by a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the program is in conjunction with the UT-Houston School of Public Health and the UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. There are two tracks, one for classroom sessions only, and a mentorship program in conjunction with classroom sessions. Classes are on Wednesday evenings, 5-6:30 p.m. All fellows and faculty are welcome to the classroom sessions. Participants nominated and selected for the mentorship program will also participate in a program designed to produce a high quality research proposal suitable for funding by a major funding agency. For questions, contact Dr. Tyson, 713-500-5651, or **Dr. Virginia Moyer**, associate professor, Pediatrics, 713-500-5651.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR MENTORING WOMEN 1999



President M. David Low

"Why is mentoring women important? It's important because we want the University and everyone in it to be as successful as they can possibly be. It is often tougher for a woman to be a successful professional than it is for a man, because she is usually coping with more conflicting demands. Mentoring helps the institution, the person being mentored and the person who mentors. We know that you build a career most successfully when you also help someone else."

- President M. David Low

A \$2000 award will be given to one UT-Houston Health Science Center employee in each of the following categories: faculty, administrative and professional staff, and classified staff. Nominations are being accepted through Monday, **August 2**. The mentor nominee may be of either gender; the person being mentored must be female. Send nominations to **Mary Frances Fabrizio**, LBJ 1EC73029, or call 713-636-4645.

HOUSTON ASTROS AND UT-H STROKE GROUP TEAM UP



Fans, some dressed in Houston Astros manager **Larry Dierker's** favorite outfit, a Hawaiian shirt, welcomed him back to the Astros dugout last Thursday, July 15. Dierker had a Grand Mal seizure during the June 13 Astros-Padre game and underwent surgery two days later on June 15. **Dr. James Grotta**, Neurology, and others from the UT-HHSC Stroke Team attended the Astrodome game against the Detroit Tigers last week, and were on hand to talk about the various symptoms and treatments for stroke.

HISPANIC HEALTH EXPO SUNDAY

A premier event, the 1999 National Council of La Raza (NCLR) Health Expo, presented by the Hispanic Health Coalition of Houston, will take place Sunday, **July 25**, at the George R. Brown Convention Center, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The Medical School's Stroke Prevention team, including **Drs. James Grotta, Andrei Alexandrov, Neraj Nubey, Dora Vital, Mindy Cox, Sandi Shaw, and Monica Tschen**, will be there with health checkups, blood pressure screenings and prevention of stroke tips, along with nearly a hundred other exhibitors. The event is free and there is free parking at St. Joseph's Hospital, with a shuttle leaving every hour starting at 9 a.m.; otherwise convention parking is four dollars.

DHHS SECRETARY APPROVES MOVE

Secretary Donna Shalala of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has reportedly approved the recommendation of the Office for Protection from Research Risks Review Panel. The panel has decided that research jurisdiction involving animals and human subjects be moved from the NIH's Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR) to the Office of the Secretary of the DHHS. The move is to be completed by spring. **Dr. Harold Varmus**, NIH director, has stated that he approves of the move. The panel's report can be read at <http://www.nih.gov/welcome/director/060399b.htm>. (Source: AAMC STAT, 7-12-99).

AAMC'S LOOK AT MEDICAL INFORMATICS

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Division of Medical Education has published *Contemporary Issues in Medical Education*. Its most recent issue, "Keeping Up With the Changing Role of Information Technology in Medicine," concerns the area of medical informatics. Information technology plays an increasing role in physician's lives. And medical educators face increasing pressure to update their medical informatics curriculum. This particular issue analyzes preliminary data from the 1999 AAMC Medical School Graduation Questionnaire and indicates how well medical schools are aligning curricula with the AAMC's Medical School Objectives project. For more information access <http://www.aamc.org/meded/edres/cime/start.htm>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED –

Osteoporosis is an insidious disease. Bones become thinner and more porous but usually there is no pain until a bone breaks or fractures. About 25% of women over 60 have osteoporosis. And more than two million American men suffer from osteoporosis. Osteoporotic fractures are an immense public health concern costing us an estimated \$13 billion a year. **Dr. Z. Maria Oden**, Orthopaedic Surgery, is using her research grant from the Whitaker Foundation to assess three-dimensional bone mineral density variations, using novel computational modeling techniques. The study compares the bone mineral density (BMD) and structural capacity of the human femur in females who take either bisphosphonate alendronate or calcium supplements for a year. Those who wish to volunteer should not be on hormone replacement therapy and should not be taking glucocorticoids. A Computer Tomogram of the femur will be taken, free of charge, at study entry and again a year later. For more information, contact **Inge Wieser**, 500-7009.



FYI - Dr. Bernadine Healy will become the new president and CEO of the American Red Cross, effective Wednesday, **September 1**. Said Healy, "The prevention and relief of human suffering, the mission of the Red Cross, is the core of my own personal being and the profession to which we all are dedicated." Healy is presently the dean of the Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health. She is also the first woman to hold the position of NIH director as well as deputy director of the White House Office of Science and Technology. (Source: AAMC STAT, 7-12-99).