



Scoop



Friday, July 30, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

DR. MONGA MENTORS NEW NMF FELLOWSHIP STUDENT

Dr. Manju Monga, assistant professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences, will mentor **Christina Hines**, MS II, on a research project entitled, "The Effect of Cocaethylene and Norcocaine on Placental Production of Prostaglandins." What is unique about the collaboration is that Hines, as well as a fellow student, **Sal Sandoval**, MS IV, are two of only 26 medical students in the country to receive fellowships as part of the Fellowship Program in Academic Medicine for Minority Students. **Dr. W.A.J. van Heuven** at UT-HSC, San Antonio, will assist Sandoval on "Placebo Controlled Crossover Study of Latanoprost and Brimonidine and the Effect of Combination Therapy with Systemic Indomethac in Control of Intraocular Pressure." This year's fellows were drawn from 17 other medical schools, including Harvard, Yale, UCLA, and Weill Medical College of Cornell University.



Dr. Manju Monga

Said **Vivian Manning Fox**, president, National Medical Fellowships (NMF), the administrat- ing organization, "These fellows are among the nation's most gifted minority medical students." Established in 1946, the purpose of the NMF is to increase the presence of underrepresented minority doctors, including African-Americans, mainland Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans, and Native Americans. For more information check the website, <<http://www.nmf-online.org>> or contact the NMF at 212-714-0933.

DR. MIDDLEBROOK TESTS NEW MRI CONTRAST AGENT

Dr. Michael Middlebrook, assistant professor, Radiology, is testing an inject- able magnetic resonance imaging contrast agent, MS-325, for the diagnosis of peripheral vascular disease of the lower body. The method is non-invasive and may lead to a cost-effective method of diagnosing atherosclerosis and related cardiovascular diseases. The new agent, also known as **AngioMark™**, coupled with a technique known as **Magnetic Resonance Angiogram (MRA)**, should "take us one step closer to replacing the more traditional invasive technique of contrast angiograms," said Middlebrook. Angiograms, used to study blockages in arteries and veins, require the placement of catheters inside the body and can cause complications, as well as being time-consuming all-day procedures.

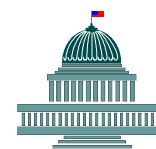


Dr. Middlebrook

For those scheduled for the more conventional angiogram and who are interested in this alternative technique, contact **Vicki Ephron**, 713-704-6861.

NE JOURNAL PUBLISHES TEACHING HOSPITALS' REPORT

Medicare's primary purpose is to finance health care for the elderly and disabled, but it also is the main vehicle for Federal aid to teaching hospitals, providing some \$7 billion annually. The *New England Journal of Medicine* last week presented a financial report, based on data from the Health Care Financing Administration, the Federal agency that runs Medicare. The report cited **Beth Israel Medical Center** in Manhattan as receiving an average of \$57,000 annually for each resident it trains, for instance, while **Houston's Hermann Hospital** receives an average of \$7,000 for each resi- dent. **Rep. Bill Archer**, chairman, Ways and Means Committee, commented, "Clearly there are inequities in the financing of graduate medical education." (Source: *NYTimes*, 7/25/99).



EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Annual UT - Employee Group Insurance Open Enrollment Period EX-TENDED**, through Tuesday, **Aug. 10**, mid- night.
- **Employee Appreciation Day**, Wed., **Sept. 15**. If you are a UT-musician and wish to participate, call **Saultczy Sabayrac**, 713-500-6004.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Daniel Creson, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, will speak on the "Psychosocial Ef- fects of Complex Emergen- cies" at Tulane University, New Orleans, August 8-9 and August 14-15.



Editor's Note: The July 26 front page of the *Houston Chronicle* summarized well the heartfelt feelings of the entire Houston community regarding the crew of **Life Flight I**. More than 2,000 people gathered in Rice Stadium on Sunday, July 25, to pay tribute to those lost and to honor all who risk their lives daily in the delivery of emergency medical care. See back page of *Scoop*.

IFC ELECTIONS DUE TODAY

Nominations are due **today**, Friday, July 30, for two representatives from the Faculty At-Large to serve on the Inter Faculty Council. Also, the Faculty Senate is in the process of electing two IFC representatives, as well. Call **Dennie Clemons**, phone 713-500-2235.



FYI - Dr. David P. Stevens, Chief of the Office of Academic Affiliations, Department of Veter- ans Affairs, has been named VP for the Association of American Medical Colleges Division of Medical School Standards and Assessment, effective Tuesday, **Septem- ber 7**. Stevens will assume the position formerly held by retiring **Dr. Donald Kassebaum**. Stevens previously served as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, Institute of Medicine, and vice dean of medicine, Case Western Reserve School of Medicine.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

Houston Chronicle

Vol. 95 No. 288

Monday, July 26, 1999

50 Cents ***

2,000 hail fallen Life Flight crew

By JERRY URBAN
and KELLY LEIGH PEDERSEN
Houston Chronicle

With the solemnity of bagpipes in the background, a procession of hundreds of area emergency medical personnel paid tribute Sunday night to three Hermann Life Flight helicopters that were members killed in the line of duty.

During the public memorial service at Rice University Stadium, speakers praised pilot John Pittman,

Three are eulogized as people who cared

St. paramedic Charles "Mac" Atteberry, 38, and flight nurse Lynn Ethridge, 31, as people who cared about saving others. The three died July 17 when their Life Flight 106, 177 helicopter crashed in Fort Bend County.

"They were dedicated and caring individuals," George H. Farris, chairman of the Memorial Hermann

Healthcare System, told the crowd of 2,000. "So at my age, please ... to do so knowing that their lives truly made a difference."

Gene Weatherall, chief of the emergency management bureau of the Texas Department of Health, representing the state's 45,000 certified emergency medical workers, said the three are among 28 emergency medical personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty in Texas. The three will be honored on a memorial.

See MEMORIAL, on Page 4A.



D. Fahleson / Chron

Emergency and law-enforcement personnel, friends and family enter Rice University Stadium for a memorial service for three Life Flight crew

members killed July 17 in a helicopter crash — pilot John Pittman, nu Lynn Ethridge and paramedic Charles "Mac" Atteberry.

Memorial

Continued from Page 1A.

in Austin, Weatherall said.

Other speakers included Houston Fire Chief Lester Tyra and Dr. Red Duke, father of the 23-year-old Life Flight program.

"This is a great loss for all of us," said Tyra. "Life isn't fair. The men and women sitting here in the emergency services who serve this community and all the surrounding communities see that unfairness every day. We attempt to make it right and make a difference."

Duke, medical director of the Life Flight program, commended the three for their commitment to helping others.

He also said: "We are ready to respond. We're there and back in service. Now more than ever, I hope you never need anything that we know how to do. But, if you do, we'll try to be there and do the best thing for you."

The two remaining Life Flight helicopters, and a Life Flight long-distance jet medical aircraft, performed fly-overs in remembrance of the three. The helicopters dropped yellow rose petals.



Pittman



Ethridge



Atteberry

Earlier Sunday, yellow roses were piled high on an altar of a west Houston church at a private memorial service held by the victims' families and co-workers.

Beside the flowers were photographs of the three.

Hermann Life Flight doctors, nurses, pilots and paramedics — bearing three yellow roses each — proceeded down the aisle to pay their respects.

Outside, dozens of emergency vehicles from across the state lined the road, attesting to the concern shown by fellow health and safety professionals.

With no previous tragedy such as this in 23 years of Hermann's Life Flight service, members of the tightly knit Life Flight family attempted to reconcile their grief at the service at

the First United Methodist Church Westchase.

"The last eight days have seemed like an eternity ... We all must mourn and we must heal as we return to our routine of saving the lives of God's people," Hermann Hospital Vice President James Eastham told the gathering.

Hospital officials and Life Flight team members fondly recalled that the crew members' individual quirks and characteristics complemented each other so well.

Pittman was remembered for his attention to detail and safety.

"John was a man who always looked several times before he leaped," said Don Brown, associate pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church and a former Life Flight team member.

"He would carry several flashlights in the instance that the lights ever went out ... John was always carrying the light, and he will forever carry the light."

Friends and co-workers lightheart-

edly recalled Ethridge's insistence on orderliness.

"Lynn was neat, professional and compassionate. She epitomized everything a nurse should be. She was a dear friend," said Debra Garro, an emergency medical technician who worked side-by-side with Ethridge in Hermann Hospital's emergency room.

Atteberry, known for his love of his cars and his mechanical know-how was the spitfire of the crew, Bros said.

But they all had one thing in common.

"They loved life, and they loved saving lives ... And in my mind they're heroes," Brown said.

The necessity of maintaining Hermann Hospital's air ambulance service was stressed even as the three crew members were eulogized.

"Three of my friends died doing what they loved, helping others fight paramedic Shawn Salter as to the health professionals in the audience.

"There's a huge void in our ability to provide public service to the community. But our strong presence here proves there's a need for the services we provide."