



Scoop



Friday, July 9, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

CARDIOLOGIST WINS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Dr. Christophe Depre, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, has been selected for a Young Investigator Award of the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA). Depre is a Daland Fellow of the American Philosophical Society in the laboratory of **Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier**. His paper, "Re-programming of Dysfunctional Gene Expression by Mechanical Unloading in Failing Human Heart," will be presented on **September 24** at the Third Annual Scientific Meeting of the HFSA in San Francisco. Other co-authors are **Dr. O. H. Frazier**, Texas Heart Institute; and **Drs. Peter J. A. Davies** and **Gregory Shipley**, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology.

HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SUMMIT PLANNED

The Third Annual Houston International Health Summit will take place Thursday, **September 23**, and Friday, **September 24**, at the Crowne Plaza Houston Medical Center. **Dr. Maria Ferris**, Pediatrics, medical director, Hermann Hospital's international affairs program, is coordinator. Among the symposium topics to be discussed will be managed-care innovations, local grass-roots clinics, and mobile health. Well-known local, national and international leaders will lead the two-day workshops. Physicians and other health care professionals, residents, fellows, and students, are encouraged to attend. **Dr. Tom Burks**, UT-HHSC EVP, Research and Academic Affairs, and **Dean Max Buja**, UT-Houston Medical School, will provide opening remarks. Contact **Gloria Betancourt** at 713-704-5678 for a registration form, e-mail address <HCHS@ped1.med.uth.tmc.edu>. Registration fees include conference materials, admission to all symposium sessions, lunches, reception, and parking. Scholarships are available, as well as a 20% discount to three or more participants of the same organization.

DR. PARSLEY NAMED OUTSTANDING MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

Dr. Brian Parsley, Orthopaedics and an '83 Medical School alum, recently received an award for his work at the annual meeting of the Arthritis Foundation South Texas Chapter. Arthritis affects more than 38 million Americans. Parsley, a volunteer faculty member here at the Medical School, is affiliated with St. Joseph Hospital. Parsley's specialty is arthroplasty or the remodeling of a diseased joint. Improvements in prostheses for knee replacement have resulted in both better long-term results and a longer lifetime of use. He has co-authored with **Dr. Terry A. Clyburn**, Orthopaedics, information brochures on "Total Hip Replacement" and "Total Knee Replacement." Parsley is past president of the Arthritis Foundation South Texas Chapter, and a member of the development committee at the Museum of Health & Medical Science (See photo, back page).

NIH SELECTS UT-HHSC AND 34 OTHERS FOR K30 AWARDS

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) selected 35 institutions to receive its Clinical Research Curriculum (K30) Awards. Among the institutions so honored were The University of Texas - Houston Health Science Center, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center/Dallas, and Baylor College of Medicine. The award provides a maximum of \$200,000 annually for five years. **Dr. Harold Varmus**, NIH Director, said, "It is very encouraging that there is so much enthusiasm for enhancing the quality and quantity of clinical research at a time when there are many scientific advances ready to be tested in the clinical arena." (Source: AAMC's *Washington Highlights*, 6/11/99).

EVENTS TO KNOW:

➤ **UT - Employee Group Insurance** Enrollment Medical School meeting, Wed., **July 14**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

➤ **TMC Food Drive** - "Party on Webber Plaza," Thurs., **July 15**, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. All six schools making up the UT-HHSC are participating in this year's efforts.



UTmost Interest

Dr. John H. Byrne, Chair, Neurobiology and Anatomy, co-organized a course at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, "The Biology of Memory: from Molecules to Behavior"...**Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, Community Affairs, returned from Unalaska, Alaska, where he was part of a volunteer community service project assisting that fishing village's Methodist church construct a new sanctuary...**Colleen O'Brien**, Editor, *Scoop*, Community Affairs, was appointed 1999-2000 Hospitality Chair, Association for Women in Communications, Houston Chapter.

FYI - The Texas Medical Center's website, <<http://www.tmc.edu/>>, lists more than 40-member institutions, including our own UT-Houston Medical School. The stated mission of the TMC is to "promote the highest quality health status for all people by assisting member institutions to achieve individual and collective goals of the highest possible standards of patient and preventive care,...and of local, national and international community well-being."

HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH

Protection of human subjects in research is required under the Department of Health & Human Services. The Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS) has a website, <www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/research_acad_aff/orsc/cphs.html> which includes the CPHS Protocol Review Form, and Informed Consent documents. CPHS questions can be directed to **Paula Knudson**, e-mail, <pknudson@oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu>.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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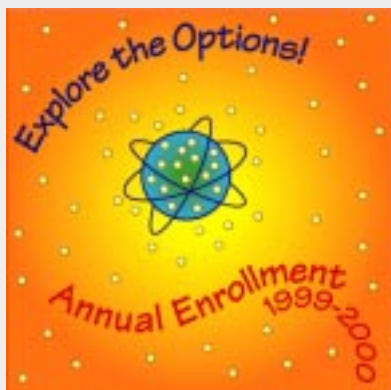
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CHANGES IN UT - EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE COVERAGES

The Medical School has one remaining open enrollment meeting for benefits presentation, next Wednesday, **July 14**, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Room 3.001. The UT System Employee Group Insurance website address, <<http://www.utsystem.edu/egi>>



enables the user to click on “Go to the Annual Enrollment 1999-2000 Resource Page.” A Complete Summary of Changes, Health Plan Updates, Changes to Dental Plan, Changes to Life Insurance, Changes to Prescription Drugs, Annual Enrollment Booklet, UT Touch Online, Useful Forms for Annual Enrollment, Provider Directory Links and Phone Numbers, Benefits Cost Worksheet and Premium Rates for 1999-2000, are listed.

Premium increases will be lower than expected said **Ed Fullerton**, Employee Benefits Manger. “It’ll bite only a little into that \$100 a month pay raise that starts on Sept. 1,” he commented at a benefits meeting, Wed., July 7 in Room 3.001. Examples given included a Point of Service health insurance plan with Delta Dental Standard coverage for a family would see an average monthly increase of \$4.08. A family’s Prudential Healthcare HMO with standard dental coverage would pay an additional monthly \$11.02. Fullerton noted that though Prudential has “the least freedom” in terms of coverage, it’s

the lowest cost of the three insurance plan options. UT Select on the other hand, the most expensive option, has the smallest increase. In general, changes in monthly premiums range from an increase of \$16 to no change or a slight decline.

Those who wish to change their benefits can do so via the website, <<http://www.utsystem.edu/egi>> or via UT TOUCH systems at 1-800-888-6824. The advantage of using the internet, Fullerton pointed out, is employees can get a printed out confirmation of their changes immediately.

Anyone who has not received in the mail an insurance coverage letter with a PIN number should call Employee Benefits at (713) 500-3935. A change this year is that directories and forms will be sent to employees via interdepartmental mail instead of being mailed to employees’ homes.

Changes in benefits also include:

- University Care Plus (UCP), comprised of UT-Houston doctors, is now a provider in the Prudential HMO network.
- Co-payments for Prescription Card Service are increasing to \$10 for generic and \$20 for brand prescriptions.
- Insurance packets are being mailed directly to faculty at their home addresses; classified employees will receive their insurance packets in their individual departments at work.
- A new feature listed in the point-of-service TUHP directory is a description of UT specialists employees can go to directly, without having to get a primary care provider referral first.
- Dental coverage, such as Delta Prevent, is twice a year only, cleaning and X-rays. If other dental procedures are required, they are not covered. Delta Standard is more comprehensive.
- Those who participate in UT Flex need to re-enroll each year, even if there are no other changes in their benefits.
- For classified staff, TIAA life insurance coverage will change to CIGNA. Those who have coverage four times their salary can increase to six. A new addition, effective **Sept. 1**, will be a *portability* factor for life insurance coverage. Employees will need to redesignate their beneficiaries and send in to Employee Benefits.
- Pre-tax parking fee savings, for those employees who park in TMC area garages, will be available by payroll deduction in the Fall.
- Faculty will have a long-term disability cost increase of 53%.

For questions, e-mail Fullerton, <efullert@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu>.



Congratulating **Dr. Brian Parsley**, right, for his Outstanding Medical Professional Award, is **Carolyn Rice**, president of the Arthritis Foundation South Texas Chapter and **Dan Cox**, chair of the Arthritis Foundation Houston Board of Directors. (See story on front page).



SUMMER DOINGS - AT THE MUSEUM

Tomorrow, Saturday, **July 10**, the Museum of Health & Medical Science, 1515 Hermann Drive, will feature “Weird Science Saturday: The Lighter Side of Art,” 11 a.m., 12:30 and 2 p.m. The basics of light, color and making sun art pictures will be on the agenda. Then, August 12, 14, & 15, “Weird Science Weekend” will be back with “Lights, Camera, Action!” **Thursday, August 12 from 4 - 7 p.m. and again, Friday, August 20, 3 - 9 p.m., are free.** Programs are available in Spanish. For information, call 713-521-1515, or check the website, <www.mhms.org/calendar.html>.