



Scoop



Clean Air Month

Friday, August 13, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Entering Class Student Retreat**, Fri., Aug. 13 & Sat., Aug. 14, Camp Allen.
- **UT-H Mini-Medical School on Women's Health**, Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21, & 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Museum of Health & Medical Science. Call 713-500-6394.
- **Dean's Lecture**, Wed., Sept. 15, Dr. James E. Darnell Jr., speaker, 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.
- **Employee Appreciation Day**, Wed., Sept. 15.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Salman Hyder, Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, delivered a talk entitled, "Regulation of VEGF expression by steroid hormones and anti-hormones in uterine and breast cancer cells - a possible step towards hormonal carcinogenesis" at the Gordon Research Conference on Hormonal Carcinogenesis held at Tilton, NH, August 1-5...**Dr. James T. Willerson**, chairman, Internal Medicine, will deliver the inaugural lecture in honor of Dr. Michel Mirowski at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine on Wednesday, **October 13**. Dr. Mirowski was a pioneering cardiologist and inventor of the implantable defibrillator.

New Digs - According to building manager **Ernest Walkup**, construction digging on Webber Plaza is necessary to provide new voice and data cable connectivity between the Medical School and the new PBS billing offices relocating to the Jesse Jones Library. These offices will have access to 500 prefix numbers after the estimated completion date of **September 1**.

FYI - **Dr. Michael Friedland**, dean, Texas A&M College of Medicine, has been named dean of the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Medicine. **Dr. Marjorie Sirridge** has been serving as interim dean. Texas A&M officials plan to appoint an interim dean.



SANBORN ELECTED AS SSR PRESIDENT-ELECT



Dr. Barbara Sanborn

The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) has elected **Dr. Barbara Sanborn**, UT-H Director of NIH Training Program in Mammalian Reproduction and co-director, Office of Women's Health, as President-Elect of the Society. **Drs. Asgi Fazleabas** and **Douglas Stocco** were chosen to serve three-year terms as Directors. The Society for the Study of Reproduction, founded in 1967, promotes the study of reproduction by fostering interdisciplinary communication among scientists. Its 1800 members are basic scientists, physicians, veterinarians, and trainees in graduate and professional schools, in fields relevant to reproductive biology in some 47 countries. *Biology of Reproduction*, the official journal of the Society, is ranked internationally as the top journal in the field of reproductive biology by the Institute of Scientific Information.

MURAD IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT CLEAR LAKE SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Ferid Murad, nobel laureate and chair, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, will be the keynote speaker Friday **August 20**, at an all-day seminar, "Nitric Oxide: Its Role as a Cardiopulmonary Mediator," at the Center for Advanced Space Studies in the Clear Lake area. The announcement was made by **Janice M. Yelle**, director, Cardiovascular Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center and seminar chair. Five other medical researchers, including **Dr. Robert F. Lodato**, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, will also speak on the role of nitric oxide. Nitric oxide plays a major role in regulating blood pressure and the clotting of blood, in immune reactions, and in digestion. It is an important signaling molecule in the central and peripheral nervous systems, and influences learning, memory, sleep patterns, and pain sensing. There is no registration fee but reservations are recommended. The Center is located on 3600 Bay Area Blvd. at Middlebrook Drive. Call **Kay Nute** at 281-244-2019. Reservation forms and a map to the site are also available in the Office of Community Affairs, MSB G.004.



Dr. Ferid Murad

LODATO STUDIES ASTRONAUTS' ORTHOSTATIC INTOLERANCE



Dr. Robert Lodato

Dr. Robert F. Lodato, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, was commissioned by NASA's Cardiovascular Lab earlier this year (see *Scoop* 1/1/99), to study the hypotensive effects of space travel on healthy, returning astronauts. Once again, Dr. Lodato has been asked by both NASA Johnson Space Center and NASA Kennedy Space Center, to participate, this time studying "orthostatic intolerance" in the astronauts, including NASA's first female shuttle commander, Clear Lake resident **Eileen Collins**. Orthostatic intolerance is the tendency in some astronauts, after returning from several days of space flight, to have initial difficulty in maintaining an adequate blood pressure on assuming an upright position. They tend to faint, until they re-adjust to gravity. Said Lodato, "We will be studying both astronauts and healthy subjects to understand the mechanisms of orthostatic intolerance and the possible difference in this phenomenon between men and women."

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

CAN FACULTY EXIT INTERVIEWS BE USED FOR ENHANCING FACULTY DEVELOPMENT?

The answer is a resounding "Yes!," according to **Drs. Henry Strobel** and **Anna Steinberger**, Associate and Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs, respectively, who led a session on this topic at the AAMC Faculty Affairs Professional Development Conference, July 25-27, in Newport Beach, CA. **Faye Viola** from the Office of Faculty Affairs also participated in the conference.

The UT-Houston Medical School is one of a few medical schools in this country to routinely conduct personal interviews with exiting faculty. The main objective of these confidential interviews, which UT has done for over two years, has been to determine the primary reasons why faculty members are leaving, to learn more about their perceptions of our institution and its programs and, above all, what can be done to help our faculty members achieve their professional goals. The Strobel/Steinberger presentation at the conference included an analysis of exit interviews for the 1996-97 and 1997-98 academic years and a description of various faculty development programs implemented/expanded as a result of recommendations made by the exiting faculty. Faculty exit interviews provide valuable feedback that enhance faculty development at the Medical School. Departmental chairs or their staff can notify the Office of Faculty Affairs, ext.5100, as soon as it is known that a faculty member will be leaving, so that an exit interview can be scheduled.



Wednesday, **September 15**, 4 p.m., in MSB 3.001, **Dr. James E. Darnell Jr.** will open the Dean's Lecture series this Fall. The title of Dr. Darnell's talk is "Biological and Transcriptional Properties of STAT Molecules." Dr. Darnell is the Vincent Astor Professor and Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology at The Rockefeller University. He has conducted research for 40 years into the ways cells retrieve information from the DNA that makes up the genes in the cell nucleus. RNA copies of this DNA are made for use in the cell cytoplasm. Darnell's group discovered that a set of dual function proteins they named STATs (Signal Transducers and Activators of Transcription) remain quiescent in the cell until circulating polypeptides bind to their specific cell surface receptors. Specific STATs then are activated, pair and travel to the nucleus to turn on appropriate genes. This discovery has promoted a flurry of research into the ways cells receive signals to become and remain specialized, to respond to growth factors and to deal with infection.

Note - The Office of Research Services (ORS) has announced that *Research Innovations Volume One Number Two 1999* is now available on-line at http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/research_acad_aff/. Click on "Research Information Publications;" then click on "Research Innovations."

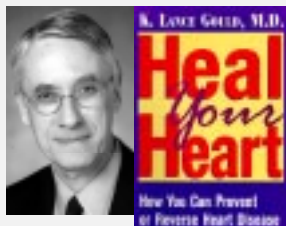


SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

The UT-Houston Medical School is sponsoring community educational events during the month of September, which is National Healthy Aging Month. Designed to provide health information to the general public, the Medical School's wellness awareness campaign is called "Stay Healthy, Start Now" and will offer free educational events, health screenings and the UT-Houston "52 Healthy Aging Facts" booklet. Volunteers are needed

for these public events to set up table exhibits and VCRs, hand out materials, coordinate seating and refreshments, greet guests and help with registration or sign-in sheets. To volunteer, contact the University Care Plus Business Development Department by calling 713-500-5095 or by e-mail, bdrecept@ucplus.org. Volunteer for at least one hour during the hours listed for each event. Volunteers will also be needed to help with screenings at community clinics between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on weekdays. The volunteer opportunities include:

- **Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28**, Mini-Medical School on Women's Health, Museum of Health & Medical Science, 1515 Hermann Drive, 5 - 8 p.m.
- **Sept. 15**, "Relax, Rejuvenate, Reward Yourself," **Dr. Becky McGraw-Wall**, UT West Loop Health Center, 1776 Yorktown, Suite 150, 4:30 - 7 p.m.



Dr. Gould

- **Sept. 18**, **Dr. K. Lance Gould** lecture and booksigning, Barnes and Noble, 3003 W. Holcombe Blvd., 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- **Sept. 25**, **Dr. Gould** lecture and booksigning, Barnes and Noble, 12850 Memorial Dr., noon - 3 p.m.

- **Sept. 27**, "Age and the Brain," **Dr. James Ferrendelli**, and "Age and the Immune System," **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, West University Community Center, 6104 Auden, 6 - 9 p.m.
- **Sept. 28**, "Age and the Brain" and "Age and the Immune System" lectures, Westside YMCA, 1006 Voss at I-10, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.