



# Scoop



Friday, January 7, 2000

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

## SCHOOL WELCOMES YEAR 2000 AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Year 2000 has at last arrived and the Medical School has entered its 30th anniversary year (1970 - 2000). Thanks to the efforts of many, Y2K proved to be Y2OK. At the Medical School, a number of dedicated employees spent their New Year's Eve at the School to assure Y2K concerns came and went without incident. *Scoop* congratulates all employees (past and present) who have contributed to three decades of School accomplishments.

## IAQ AND CLADDING PROJECTS ENTER NEW PHASES

Two projects at the Medical School enter new phases this month. The Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) project shifts its IAQ focus from the building's core systems to scheduling renovation of individual labs. Actual lab renovation begins November 2000 and runs through October 2004. Then, office renovations are projected to start and run through 2007. UT-Houston has received \$10 million from the UT System Permanent University Fund for the IAQ project, and is planning to receive additional funds to complete IAQ renovations for the whole building (including offices), in the future. Starting this month, meetings will be scheduled with department chairs and DMOs. All spaces will be scheduled to be vacated for up to four weeks within the 12-month period. Labs will be closed while they are renovated. The project is currently projected to start with the blue section labs, then move on to the green section and so on until all 840 labs have been renovated by 2004. A section-by-section schedule was worked out after a survey of Medical School departments last year. **Dr. Robert Emery**, Director of Clinical Safety, indicates that the principal culprits for respiratory and air quality complaints are dirt and moisture in the ducts. Said **Jack Esmond**, design engineer and principal of E&C Engineering & Consultants Inc., "Basically, we've got a seven-year project to improve air quality in a building that is in continuous operation and we are limiting the individual disruption to researchers to four weeks."



In a separate project, examination and selective reinstallation of 6,400 exterior limestone panels that are in need of repair (see *Scoop* 1/8/99), also begins this month. The cladding process will be done by Vaughn Construction Co. and is expected to take 14 months. For a longer story, see *Monday Morning*, **Jan. 10, 2000**.

## SECOND ANNUAL RODEO IN THE PARK JAN. 15

Come on out next Saturday, **January 15**, for "Rodeo in the Park," a second-annual event for the Texas Medical Center, to take place on the parking lot at the corner of Fannin and Braeswood Street, from 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The free, non-alcoholic festival will feature entertainment, a petting zoo, rodeo clowns, pony rides, face painting, barrel racing, team horseshoe and washer pitching for all age categories. Winners qualify for the finals at the upcoming Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Sponsoring the event is the Houston General Go Texan Mid-Town Subcommittee. Wear your I.D. badge for a free entry for you and your family.



## EVENTS TO KNOW:


- **TIRR lecturer Dr. Jonas Frisen**, Karolinska Institute, "Stem Cells and Spinal Cord Injury," Wed. **Jan. 12**, 4 p.m., Baylor, Alkek N315. Questions, call **Cindy Lucia**, TIRR, 713/528-0123.
- **Clinical Research Curriculum, Dr. Jan Risser**, SPH, Intro to Clinical Epidemiology, Wed., **Jan. 12**, 5-6:30 p.m., 2.006.
- **Distinguished Lecturer in the Neurosciences, Dr. Eric R. Kandel**, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, "Genes, Synapses and Long-Term Memory," Thurs., **Jan. 13**, 4 p.m., 3.001.

## UTmost Interest

As part of first floor departmental reorganization, **Carolyn Sherman**, formerly with Management and Administrative Services, is now coordinating programs in the Office of Admissions...**Dr. Pamela Promecene**, Ob/Gyn, was recognized as "Physician of the Year" by Memorial Hermann Hospital at a luncheon on 12/14/99...**Drs. Jonathan Ophir** and **Elisa Konofagou**, Ultrasound/Radiology, received the 1999 best refereed non-clinical paper by the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology.

**FYI - Drs. Caroline Fife, Latisha Smith, Jaime Aristizabal, and Karen Parker, R.N.**, UT-H Medical School, are featured discussing wound management, tissue engineering and the clinical use of semi-synthetic human skin at the Cyberounds website this month, <[http://www.cyberounds.com/conferences/special\\_features](http://www.cyberounds.com/conferences/special_features)>.

## DID YOU KNOW?

 University Care Plus (UCP), the managed-care arm of the Medical School is the second largest Houston-area medical group with 500 doctors, 75 PCPs, and 419 specialists. Clinics with UCP doctors number 66, 32% of patient visits are managed care, and the number of patient visits in 1998 totaled 671, 890. (Source: *Houston Business Journal*, "The 2000 Book of Lists," p.128) Watch *Scoop* for a new column featuring UCP in coming weeks.

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: [Colleen.L.OBrien@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Colleen.L.OBrien@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**



## A PANEL OF EXPERTS LOOKS AT THE MIRACLE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

How do we raise kids to be psychologically, emotionally, whole people? What have we really learned about their cognitive, neurological growth? Find out, beginning at a kickoff "Welcome Reception," the evening of Tuesday, **Jan. 18**, followed by a two and a half-day *free* scientific session beginning the morning of the 19th, investigating early childhood development. The workshop, "Biological and Social Determinants of Child Development," will take place at the James A. Baker III Institute

for Public Policy, on the Rice University campus, 6100 Main.

The University of Texas-Houston in conjunction with the Baker Institute at Rice University is offering this special opportunity for researchers from various disciplines who study child development. During the session, distinguished faculty members, from both the Medical School and institutions as far way as the University of British Columbia, will represent neuro-biological, behavioral, social and health policy aspects of the field. There is no charge for the workshop, but the number that can be accommodated is limited. For details of registration and further information, consult the workshop website site at <<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/workshop/>> and hit enter. The workshop is made possible by a grant from the NIH's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

## FACULTY HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

The deadline for receipt of nominations for The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Humanism in Medicine Award, to be presented to a faculty member at Commencement on June 3, 2000, is Tuesday, **February 1**, 2000. Nominations are being solicited from faculty, residents, and students. The award carries a \$2,000 honorarium. Volunteer faculty are not eligible to receive the award. This will be the second year the award has been presented, the first having been given in June, 1999, to **Dr. John R. Stroehlein**, Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology. Nominations must include at least a paragraph explaining why the nominee merits the award and the candidate's CV and should be directed to the attention of: **Dr. Margaret C. McNeese**, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, G-106 MSB.

Criteria for the award as specified by the Health Foundation of New Jersey include: displays effective communication and listening skills; shows respect for everyone he/she comes in contact with; show's respect for the patient's viewpoint; welcomes opportunities for one-on-one mentorships with students; serves as a role model -- illustrates professional behavior by example -- for students and colleagues; is personally committed to objective self-evaluation of his/her own skills; consistently demonstrates compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients; engenders trust and confidence.

**FYI - Dr. Nancy Bergstrom**, formerly, University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, has been appointed Associate Director for Research, Center on Aging, and Theodore J. and Mary E. Trumble Professor of Aging Research, School of Nursing. Bergstrom's clinical emphasis includes assessing pain in cognitively impaired older adults, advancing the application of the Braden Scale as a preventive clinical tool, implementing exercise programs for residents in assisted living facilities, and translating knowledge into evidence-based practice protocols.

## 2000 ETHICS IN MEDICINE LECTURE SERIES

The Program on Humanities and Technology in Health Care, coordinated by **Dr. Stanley Reiser**, will be assisted by UT-Houston second-year medical students with this year's 2000 Ethics in Medicine Lecture Series. The following will occur from noon - 1 p.m., MSB 2.006. Blue book credit is available to medical students attending eight of ten lectures.

- Mon., **Jan. 10**    **Dr. Stanley Reiser**, Griff T. Ross Professor of Humanities and Technology in Health Care, UT-HHSC, "What Medical Ethics Is"
- Wed., **Jan. 12**    **Dr. Charles Ericsson**, Director, Travel Medicine, UT-H Medical School, "Ethics in the Conduct of Research"
- Wed., **Jan. 19**    **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, Director, Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, UT-H Medical School, "The Hospital Ethics Committee as a Solver of Problems"
- Mon., **Jan. 24**    **Dr. Harvey Gordon**, Baylor College of Medicine: "The Ethics of Entering and Ending the Doctor/Patient Relationship"
- Wed., **Jan. 26**    **Dr. Amir Halevy**, Program Director, Residency Program in Internal Medicine, Baylor, "Ethical Issues in the Residency"
- Mon., **Feb. 7**      **Dr. S. Ward Casscells**, Director, Division of Cardiology, UT-H Medical School, "The Ethics of Internet and E-mail Medicine"
- Wed., **Feb. 9**     **Dr. Elizabeth Heitman**, UT-H School of Public Health, "Providing Care to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Patients"
- Wed., **Feb. 16**    **Dr. Samuel Karff**, UT-H School of Public Health, "Respecting the Patient in the Process of Healing"
- Mon., **Feb. 21**    **Dr. Henry Strobel**, UT-H Medical School, "The Ethical Development of the Medical Student: Observations and Reflections"
- Wed., **Feb. 23**    **Dr. Benjamin Amick**, UT-H Medical School, "Physicians, Social Change, and Ethics."