



Scoop



Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Observed, Mon., Jan. 17

Friday, January 14, 2000

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Joint Psychiatry Lecture Series with Baylor, Dr. Allan Tasman**, President, American Psychiatric Assoc., "The Future of Psychiatric Residency Training," Wed., **Jan. 19**, 10:30 a.m., Baylor, Klever Auditorium.
- **Clinical Research Curriculum, Dr. Jan Risser**, SPH, Intro to Clinical Epidemiology, Wed., **Jan. 19**, 5-6:30 p.m., MSB 2.006.

NOTE: All MSRDP members are urged to attend the annual MSRDP meeting, Wed., Feb. 23, 4-6 p.m., Room 3.001.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Fernando Moya, Pediatrics, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Division Director, was recognized as the Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital "Physician of the Year"...**Dr. Hasan Garan** recently joined the Division of Cardiology, Internal Medicine, as professor and director of cardiac electrophysiology. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, he is well-recognized for his work in the area of atrial tachycardias (atrial fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia), electrophysiology studies, and pacemaker/ICD implantations.

DIAMONDS & SCRUBS BENEFIT

The Second Annual Diamonds and Scrubs Rodeo Gala (last year titled, "TMC Buckaroo Ball"), will take place at the old Rice Hotel downtown, Friday, **Jan. 21**, 8 p.m. Proceeds benefit medical scholarships. The "Bill Hart Band" will entertain, and there'll be dining and dancing. Catering is by Pierre and Candy Massoud. A silent auction will also ensue at the black tie event. Tickets are \$100 each or table of 10 for \$1000. Reservations by Tues., **Jan. 18**. For more information call **Bubba Beasley**, 713/661-4558.



TOWN HALL MEETING SET FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 17

A UT-Houston Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Friday, **March 17**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

STAR AWARDS HONORS EMPLOYEES, FEB. 24

The 5th annual STAR Awards takes place Thursday, **February 24**, 2000. The time and place are 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the TMC Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe. The STAR Awards is a luncheon and awards ceremony for employees who celebrated their 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25-year anniversary with UT-Houston during the 1999 calendar year. Find out if you are a STAR at the website <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/admin_fin/hr/stars/star2000.html>.



DEAN'S LECTURER ADDRESSES GENETIC CLONING, FEB. 9

The next Dean's Lecturer, **Dr. Patricia K. Donaho**, will speak on "Downstream Signal Transduction of Mullerian Inhibiting Substance in Ovarian Cancer," Wed., **Feb. 9**, 4 p.m., MSB 3.001. Donahoe is the Marshall K. Bartlett Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School. She is also the Chief of Pediatric Surgical Services and the Director of Pediatric Surgical Research Laboratories at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Donahoe has studied the molecular mechanisms by which TGFB family proteins suppress growth, focusing on Mullerian Inhibiting Substance (MIS) as a model. After purifying MIS protein and cloning its gene, she and her colleagues cloned the genes for its type I and type II receptors and a number of other receptors of this transmembrane serine/threonine kinase family, and used homologous recombination to uncover their early embryonic function. They proposed that human ovarian and breast carcinomas would be targets for MIS and discovered that MIS produced G1 arrest and apoptosis.

She has applied her experimental work on molecular mechanisms of sex differentiation to the care and surgical reconstruction of infants with intersex abnormalities and used her understanding of foregut development to correct congenital anomalies of the trachea and esophagus.

CLIFTON ANALYZES HOSPITALS' EMERGENCY BED NEEDS

Dr. Guy L. Clifton, chair, Department of Neurosurgery, and chief of neurosurgery at Memorial Hermann Hospital, was featured in the Sun., Jan. 9, *Houston Chronicle*, p. 1C with his article, "Keep Our Emergency Room Doors Open." Clifton's article focused on the diminishing availability of intensive-care beds for emergency neurosurgical patients and other trauma patients in need.

He addressed several issues including: Harris County leading the nation in the per capita rate of uninsured (31 percent), many of whom make up a growing number of working poor; reduced funding for the Harris County Hospital District; and a reduction of federal monies in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement due to the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. His article concluded with an appeal for an adequate tax rate for the hospital district, to relieve pressure on Ben Taub, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Memorial Hermann hospitals, as well as state support of Level I trauma centers, similar to Maryland's use of revenue for license plate fees to help fund their Level I trauma centers. Says **Dean Maximilian Buja**, "Dr. Clifton has synthesized the issues well and I join him in his call for community action."



Dr. Guy Clifton

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



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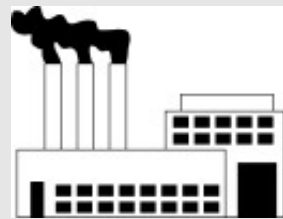
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THE CLEAN AIR ACT: A PRIMER

Editor's Note: Are you hearing more about the Clean Air Act and understanding less? Scoop provides this backgrounder to assist readers regarding the many news items you can expect in both the local and national media for the coming year.

The basic structure of the **Clean Air Act** dates back to 1970 and represents the most extensive federal environmental statute on the books. The statute has two separate regulatory regimes. The first and most extensive deals with **conventional pollutants**. A



second regime applies to **hazardous air pollutants**, many of them carcinogens, which tend to have a greater impact. The **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** are the centerpiece of the Clean Air Act's regulatory provisions. These standards are uniform nationwide and are set at the federal level by the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**. They define the maximum permissible concentrations of various pollutants in the air. There are two types of NAAQS:

primary standards, which are designed to protect against adverse impacts of air pollution on public health, and **secondary standards**, which are designed to protect against other adverse impacts, such as on soils, water bodies, vegetation and wildlife. NAAQS have been set for six pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, particulates, lead, and sulfur dioxide. (Source: *Richard Revesz, professor of law at New York University School of Law where he directs the Program on Environmental Regulation*)

A number of industry groups have also joined forces with the U.S. Department of Energy in supporting the **National Environmental Respiratory Center (NERC)**, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the **Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute (LRRI)**. They include the Ford Motor Company, the Exxon Corporation, the American Trucking Associations, the Detroit Diesel Corporation, and the Navistar International Transportation Corporation.

The LRRI information center is conducting research on how different particles, gases, and vapors in the air work together to affect public health. Says LRRI president and CEO **Robert W. Rubin**, "We don't know how to regulate on the basis of mixtures. The overriding issue is our lack of knowledge about the health risks of pollutant mixtures." (Sources: *UniScience News Net, Inc. and NERC's website, <<http://www.nercenter.org/whatis.htm>>*)



THIRD ANNUAL DR. "RED" DUKE PROFESSORSHIP DAY

This coming Tuesday, **January 18**, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., the Third Annual Dr. "Red" Duke Professorship Day will be held.

Lectures will start in the Hermann Pavillion Conference Rooms 1,2,3,4. Guest speaker will be **Dr. Ronald Maier**, Professor and Vice



Chairman, Dept. of Surgery, University of Washington. His lecture topic will be "Advances in the Management of ARDS." Also speaking will be **Dr. Rosemary Kozar**, UT-Houston Medical School, Department of Surgery. Her topic will be "Gut Absorptive Capacity Following Shock-Induced Gut Ischemia." The final speaker will be **Becky Pierce**, R.N., Nurse Manager, Trauma Intensive Care and Peripheral Vascular Laboratory, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Washington. Her topic will be "Giving Bad News." The event is co-sponsored by Memorial Hermann Hospital and **Dr. Frederick A. Moore**, director, Division of General Surgery, Department of Surgery, at the Medical School, and chief of both general surgery and trauma and critical care at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The winners of the Door Wreath Contest over the holidays were: **Kathleen Schmitz & Shari Galletti**/Allergy, first place; **Barbara Devore & Karen Bishop**/OB-Gyn, second place; **Sheila Buchanan**/Biochemistry, third place; and **Suzzie Sabayrac**/Ophthalmology, honorable mention.

STANFORD AND JOAN ALEXANDER LECTURESHIP

NEW VISITING LECTURESHIP HOSTED BY UT-H OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCE

Dr. Barrett Katz, professor and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the George Washington University Medical Center, was the first Stanford and Joan Alexander Visiting Lecturer in the UT-H Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science last week. His standing room only lecture on Jan. 7 outlined the retina's unique role as a window to cardiovascular disease and stroke with special emphasis on carotid artery disease. Katz, who is both certified in ophthalmology and neurology, also holds an MBA. He followed his afternoon lecture with Saturday morning presentations for ophthalmology residents and fellows.

Dr. Richard S. Ruiz, chairman of the department, noted how pleased he was with both the new lectureship that the Alexanders have provided and the selection of Dr. Katz as the first lecturer. **Stanford Alexander** is chairman and CEO of Weingarten Realty Investors and a strong supporter of Houston's corporate and medical communities. In 1987 he was selected as one of the 25 people credited with changing Houston from a sprawling prairie to the nation's seventh largest metropolitan area (now fourth). He and his wife, **Joan**, are recognized throughout Houston for their generosity and lifetime contributions to the community.



Dr. Barrett Katz

RESEARCHING CALF PAIN

Calf pain, or intermittent claudication, is a sharp pain in the calf muscle caused by atheroma or arterial spasms, restricting the blood supply to the muscles. Atheroma is associated with atherosclerosis and can predispose one to a number of conditions, including thrombosis, angina, and stroke. **Dr. Robert W. Feldtman**, Surgery/Clinical, has recently begun a *Phase 4 Research Study*. This study targets people with intermittent claudication of the lower extremities. He is comparing trental to pletal to placebo at his affiliate Memorial City office. Pletal is only the second drug the FDA has approved since 1988 for intermittent claudication. Otsuka Pharmaceutical America, Inc. is funding the study. Call **Elly Raborn**, RN, at 713-500-7257 or 713-500-7263, for further information.