



# Scoop



Nat'l. Children's  
Dental Health Month

Friday, February 25, 2000

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

## EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Seminars in Reproductive Biology, Dr. Michael Soares**, "The Uteroplacental Prolactin Family: A Determinant of Viability," Tues., **March 14**, noon, 3.301 (green section).
- **Town Hall Meeting**, Fri., **March 17**, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

## UTmost Interest

**Dr. Hui Ming Chang**, Internal Medicine, chaired the Undergraduate Education Committee at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pain Medicine, **Feb. 24-27**, in New Orleans.



## UT-HOUSTON BOOK DRIVE

Benefiting families who use UT-Houston pediatric clinics. Tues., Feb. 29, and Wed., March 1, drop a new or gently used book into the Medical School's lobby area collection boxes.

**FYI** - The Fifth Annual UCSC Classified Spring Workshop is right around the corner, Wed., **April 12**. Look for your invitation next month. "Building a Better Tomorrow" will take place at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 6801 S. Main.

## BUDGET REQUEST - President Clinton

Feb., 7 submitted his final budget request to Congress, kicking off the FY 2001 budget and appropriations season. The administration's FY 2001 budget request includes a \$1 billion (5.6 percent) increase for the National Institutes of Health. If enacted, the president's request would enable the NIH to make 31,524 research project grants,



the highest ever number of awards, NIH leadership says. This total includes 23,883 non-competing grants (an increase of 1,546 over FY 2000) and 7,641 new competing grants (a decrease of 1,309 from FY 2000). The budget request includes \$72.5 million for extramural facilities construction grants, the same amount as FY 2000, and \$221 million for the General Clinical Research Centers (GCRC), an increase of \$14 million (6.8 percent).

## UROGYNECOLOGY & PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE SYMPOSIUM

From 7:15 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, **March 3**, and 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday, **March 4**, in MSB 3.001, a two-day conference, "Advances in Urogynecology & Pelvic Organ Prolapse for the New Millennium," will take place. Participating UT-H faculty include: **Drs. Vaseem Ali, M. Yusoff Dawood, Firyal Khan, Larry Gilstrap, Molly Brewer, Judith Wolf, and Ouida Westney**. Physicians will discuss the latest advances in the fields of obstetrics, gynecology and urology. Diagnosis and treatment alternatives for the 13 million Americans affected by urinary incontinence will include a hands-on dissection of unembalmed cadavers, and cystoscopic evaluation of bladders. Both AMA Physician's Recognition Award credit and CME credit are available. For information call **Julie Thomas** at 713-500-5126, or 713-500-5249.

## DR. BARRETT-CONNOR & WOMEN'S HEART ATTACKS, MARCH 13

More women die of heart disease each year than the total number of deaths from the next 14 causes of death combined, including breast cancer. **Dr. Elizabeth Barrett-Connor**, division chief, Epidemiology, Family and Preventive Medicine, UC-San Diego School of Medicine, is an invited guest to speak on "Why Are Women So Superior?: Gender Differences in Heart Disease." Sponsored by the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the talk is scheduled for noon, Monday, **March 13**, MSB 3.001. Risk factors for heart disease in women include: high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, being overweight, under heavy stress, and a family history of heart disease. Five major symptoms of a heart attack in women include: chest pain/pressure sensation after exertion/exercise, upper abdominal pain that may spread to the arm and jaw, uncommon shortness of breath/fatigue, heart palpitations, and uncommon nausea or indigestion, especially after exertion/exercise. Markers for a heart attack in women include: an exercise echo test, and a nuclear tracer stress test. Prevention, that includes a healthy diet of fish and fresh vegetables, is an optimal choice.

## BRAIN AWARENESS PUBLIC FORUM, MARCH 14

Coming soon is a great annual event at the UT-Medical School - a free public forum on brain awareness. "The Developing Brain" will take place twice, Tues., **March 14**, 5:30 - 7 p.m. and Sat., **March 18**, 10:30 a.m. - noon, main Medical School lecture hall, Room 3.001. **Drs. Ian Butler**, Neurology, Pediatrics, and Neurobiology and Anatomy Adriana Blood Chair in Neurology, and **Michael Levine**, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, will make presentations covering such topics as Tourette Syndrome in children, and attention deficit disorder (ADD). Questions from the floor are welcome. Parking is available in Garage 4; cost for two hours is four dollars. For information, call **Sharon Pepper**, 713-500-5538.



Dr. Ian Butler

## UT HOUSE MEDICS SPRING 2000 PROGRAM, APRIL 1

Paint the house beautiful and have some fun for a good cause. That's the message of the Ninth Annual UT-House Medics Volunteer Project, occurring on Sat. **April 1**, Sat. **April 8**, with a completion celebration on Sat. **April 15**. Help out some elderly homeowners in our community. Bring your scrapers, hammers, and huddled paint brushes yearning to be free. Click on the sign-up button at [http://admin5.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ishome/special\\_pro/housemed.html](http://admin5.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ishome/special_pro/housemed.html). Or call **Krysti Suarez**, 713/500-2241, or **Brett Edmondson**, 713/500-9667. Sign-ups due Wed., **March 1**.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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# UNIVERSITY CARE PLUS UPDATE

Affiliated with the Practice Plan of The University of Texas-Houston Medical School

## UCP's GOAL:

### TO SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL'S MISSION

"The goal of the University Care Plus (UCP) management team is to coordinate the UT-Houston clinical practice so it can support the Medical School's mission of education, research and patient care," says **Dr. Morris A. Flaum**, Associate Dean for Clinical Operations and new Chairman of the UCP Board of Directors. The other team members are **Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg**, Medical Director of UCP and Senior Medical Director of the Office of Ambulatory Operations (see Scoop, 9/24/99), and **Paul P. Cooper III**, UCP President and CEO (see Scoop, 11/19/99).

Adds **Dean Maximilian Buja**, "We can all be proud of this new management team; the members are already hard at work to achieve a balanced budget and to position the institution as a strong competitor in the managed-care environment. The new leaders will refocus on efforts to conduct business in a fiscally responsible manner so that our operations will support the core academic mission of the Medical School."

Flaum's responsibilities as Associate Dean for Clinical Operations, which became effective Dec. 6, 1999, are to oversee the clinical operations of the faculty, manage the business operation and coordinate the professional relationship between UCP and the Memorial Hermann Hospital as well as other hospitals where UT has an affiliation.

"At the core, I am a physician, who likes interacting with my patients and with my colleagues on clinical matters," explains **Dr. Morris Flaum**, Flaum, who holds a faculty appointment in Internal Medicine's Division of Hematology and will be seeing patients. Flaum received his M.D. degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine ('74), followed by both a Medicine internship and a Medicine residency at Yale/New Haven Hospital. At the National Institutes of Health ('77-'79), he did a fellowship in the hematology service of the clinical pathology department.

"I really like the fact that I can contribute to a patient's well-being." Because Flaum sees patients, he understands the challenges and stresses of being a doctor, and in his UCP management position he will be contributing on a more global level.

"All academic medical centers are currently being challenged dramatically by a number of market forces including diminished reimbursement, uncompensated care, and increased competition," he observes. "With strategic decision-making and operational excellence, UT-Houston can meet these challenges successfully because we are a strong organization."

Flaum received his MBA in 1990 from the A. B. Freeman School of Business, Tulane University, after serving as a member of the Board of Management of the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans. "I realized that I did not have a clear understanding of all the business concepts that I needed to help manage this large multi-specialty group practice," he comments. This new education provided him with basic financial and accounting terminology as well as more sophisticated financial analysis, strategic planning and organizational management.

With this new knowledge, Flaum realized that physicians make decisions in a different fashion than persons in business. "We as physicians consider things on an individual patient basis, and we want as much information as we can get," he explains. "In a business setting, one never has all the information, so decisions are made by gauging the benefits and risks based on the information at hand." Before coming to Houston he was Senior Vice President of Medical & Academic Affairs with Mercy Health Partners in Toledo, Ohio.

Flaum has authored a number of articles and abstracts in the areas of hematology, oncology and management. He has also spoken extensively throughout the country. (Next month's column will continue the focus on management).

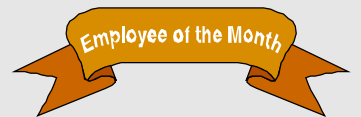
- N. Shire



## February Employee of the Month - Monique Nunley

Somewhere over the rainbow, in Gary, Indiana to be exact, our classic Employee-of-the-Month, **Monique R. Nunley**, was born and grew up. Fortunately for the Department of Surgery, Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) General Hospital, where she presently works as an Executive Assistant, Monique moved to Houston 19 years ago.

Says **Dr. David Mercer**, Chief of Surgery, LBJ, of Monique, when she came to the department five years ago, "She became the sole secretarial support. And while many viewed this as an insurmountable task, she managed to successfully satisfy the entire faculty, residents, students, patients, and ancillary staff involved. Moreover, she was able to perform these tasks expeditiously, professionally, and tactfully." Comments Monique, "What I enjoy most about my job are the daily challenges and the fast pace, anything from assisting patients with problems, to arranging travel schedules for faculty with challenging time constraints themselves." Monique modestly leaves out that she also does hands-on work with grant reviews, research, quality review work, and publications.



Adds **Dr. James D. Hefner**, associate dean, Harris County Programs, "Mrs. Nunley, in her soft-spoken and gracious fashion, has uncomplainingly taken on new tasks and competently mastered them."

The woman, who in her "downtime," loves to see classic movies like *Gone With The Wind*, and enjoys her life with her husband of 20 years, **Ronald**, and her sports-minded 13 year-old son, **Prescott**, is herself a classic, prized by her employers for her own brand of determination and high motivation.