



Scoop



Match Day is Thurs.,
March 16

Friday, March 10, 2000

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

➤ **Brain Awareness Public Forum**, Tues., **March 14**, 5:30 p.m., Sat., **March 18**, 10:30 a.m., speakers **Drs. Ian Butler** and **Micheal Levine**, MSB 3.001. For information on this free event, call **Sharon Pepper**, 713-500-5538.

➤ **Annual Faculty Meeting**, Wed., **May 24**, 11:45 a.m., in MSB 3.001. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. for first 200.

H.O.M.E.S. MADE VISIBLE

Often lacking access to the most basic health care services for their complex health care needs, Houston's homeless are being served every Sunday by H.O.M.E.S. (Houston Outreach Medicine, Education, and Social Services) Student-Run Free Clinic for the Homeless. Active participants include **Dr. Andrew Harper**, assistant dean, Office of Education Programs, and 100 UT-Houston students led by **Stephanie Abrams**, MS IV, **Christian Freeman**, MS II, and **Michelle White**, MS IV, at a downtown Houston facility called "Lord of the Streets," that also includes the Caritas Health Care Clinic.



Honored guests **Dean Max Buja** and his wife **Donna**, recently visited and shared thoughts at the "Reflections" period, noon - 1p.m. Said Harper, "It's a very exciting volunteer project. H.O.M.E.S. is a joint effort of UT-Houston, Baylor, UH School of Pharmacy, UH School of Social Work, and many other major agencies. The clinic is actually the brainchild of **Allegra Melillo**, MSII, and other medical students assisted by Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston (HHH). **Dr. David Buck**, assistant professor, Baylor, is the HHH medical director."

For more information, check <<http://www.homeless-healthcare.org>>.

FYI - The Dean's Office was notified this week that **Dorothy Tuttle**, wife of **Dr. Robert Tuttle**, second Dean of the Medical School, passed away, Sat., March 4, in Durham, NH.

DR. STANLEY SCHULTZ NAMED PRESIDENT'S SCHOLAR

Dr. Stanley G. Schultz, professor and vice-chairman, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and holder of the Fondren Family Chair in Cellular Signaling, will be honored at the upcoming spring Honors Convocation, Wed., **April 26**, with the "1999 President's Scholar Award for Teaching." The Convocation will be 4 - 5:30 p.m., SPH auditorium, 1200 Herman Pressler. A reception will immediately follow the ceremony in Rooms 102 A and B. Schultz has been on the faculty at the UT-H Medical School since 1979, serving as chairman of the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology (now Integrative Biology) for 17 years. In 1991 he was elected president of the American Physiology Society.



Dr. Stanley Schultz

Schultz has served as editor of the *American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology*, *Physiological Reviews*, the *Handbook of Physiology: Gastrointestinal System*, and currently, *News in Physiological Sciences*. He received his baccalaureate, summa cum laude, from Columbia University and his M.D. degree from New York University and is widely recognized for his contributions to the understanding of epithelial ion transport. He was one of the first to recognize sodium-coupled transport by epithelia and the role of paracellular pathways in epithelia. Schultz has served as a member and chairman of the Physiology Test Committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners and president of the Association of Chairmen of the Department of Physiology. His other awards include the Hoffman LaRoche Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Gastroenterology. In addition, he is the director of the Medical School's Problem-Based Learning program.

DON'T MISS TOWN HALL MEETING, FRIDAY, MARCH 17

All employees are encouraged to attend the Medical School Town Hall Meeting scheduled in MSB 3.001 Friday, **March 17**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. **President M. David Low**, **John Porretto**, executive vp administration and finance, **Dr. Tom Burks**, executive vp research and academic affairs, along with **Dean Max Buja**, will be on hand to address a variety of topics - including the impact of external healthcare change on our operations. *Scoop* will provide readership an update from the meeting in the March 24th issue.



VISITING LECTURERS, DRs. SINCLAIR AND SILVERMAN

Dr. John C. Sinclair will speak as the first William A. Silverman Visiting Lecturer at Pediatric Grand Rounds, 8 a.m., Tues., **March 14**, MSB 2.103. Sinclair, speaking on "Applying the Results of Clinical Trials to the Care of Individual Patients," is a distinguished clinical epidemiologist and currently Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale University. He will join the faculty of the Department of Pediatrics and the Center for Population Health and Evidence-Based Medicine in January 2001.

The following day, at noon, Wed., **March 15**, MSB 2.135, **Dr. William Silverman**, an eminent pediatrician and former professor at Columbia University, will address the "Ethics of Caring for Extremely Premature Infants."

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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CHINA REUNION 2000 SET FOR MAY 1-8

In 1981 something monumental took place that would impact the UT-Houston Medical School and its students for years to come. While the still new Medical School (barely a decade old) continued to build its curriculum, facilities and faculty, a young biochemist on the faculty named **Henry Strobel** set out to create something unique. For that, he went to China.

Strobel, a member of the clergy, accomplished biochemist, and popular teacher, sought to give UT medical students an intangible gift they'd never find in a textbook - an international perspective to health care delivery that only comes by experiencing and seeing firsthand. With that vision in mind, along with the support of faculty colleagues and School leadership, he made several trips with help from faculty colleagues in the early 1980s to build relationships and student opportunities in China.

By 1985 the UT-Houston Medical School acting dean at the time, **Dr. Louis Faillace**, was in Beijing to sign a formal agreement with Chinese health officials that would bring about a dozen UT-Houston senior medical students to that city's four largest hospitals every year in April. Since 1986, Strobel has yet to miss a year sharing this unique experience with students who spend about a week at each of the hospitals along with visits to community clinics. In the early years, the Capital University of Medical Sciences (the medical school) even built a dormitory to take care of their Houston guests. That facility designed to house eight has now expanded into a larger building with capacity to house more than a hundred.



Dr. Henry Strobel

The extra space will be needed this year as a special 2000 reunion trip (in addition to the annual April trip for current students) is planned **May 1-8**. "It's very exciting and this event is developing by the moment with dozens of former students who made the trip in the past along with a small group of faculty gathering from afar for a very special China reunion." Henry Strobel, as usual, will be a very busy man and plans to wear black tie at the reunion's opening dinner to formally celebrate a vision that has emerged into tradition at the UT-Houston Medical School.

Looking back over the years he summarizes, "From the beginning this student experience was developed to allow our students to stand outside the environment that has trained them. From that position they are able to ask questions and put into perspective the training we have. Nobody comes back without an appreciation for American medicine and an increased appreciation for the practice of medicine elsewhere. Nobody comes back without finding new ways to be a physician more effectively, and I believe, more humanely."

Strobel, who is today a tenured professor in biochemistry as well as associate dean for faculty affairs and assistant dean for student affairs at the UT-Houston Medical School, notes that each of the four hospitals in Beijing that host the students care for about 4,000 outpatients a day.

"These four hospitals have a daily census that runs more than 100 percent capacity - yet, they find a way to deal with what may seem like overwhelming medical needs in human and compassionate ways that open the eyes of many a student — and faculty member, observes Strobel." This is an increasingly important lesson given the current changes in American medicine that put pressure on the physician/patient relationship. For our students to see someone else who has many more patients than we do yet manages to keep human compassion at the forefront only affirms and confirms the importance of the personal touch."

From the early 1980s to the present, Strobel and fellow faculty who have escorted students to China over the years have seen tremendous change in China's healthcare delivery. "Students attending the May reunion who were on this trip in 1986 will hardly recognize some of the hospitals and the changes that have taken place. However, they'll find the friendships and hospitality of the Chinese medical community that we are now a part of remains constant. Therein lies another important lesson that all who participate in this reunion visit will witness," he adds with his trademark smile that so many on both sides of the world have come to know.



- B. Boutwell

DR. JOEL STEINBERG RECEIVES TWO-YEAR DANA FOUNDATION RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. Joel L. Steinberg, an associate professor in the University of Texas-Houston Medical School Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, is the recipient of a prestigious research award from The Charles A. Dana Foundation. Steinberg, also a Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) physician and innovator in the use of brain imaging technology, will receive \$99,534 over two years from the Dana Clinical Hypothesis in Neuroscience Research in Imaging Program to support his grant, "Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Working Memory Abnormalities in Schizophrenic Patients." It's an extension of Steinberg's previous work involving the effect of cognitive dysfunctions, such as problems with memory, attention and planning, on poor outcomes in persons suffering from schizophrenia. "I hope that this project will ultimately result in improved diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life for the patients who are treated at HCPC," Steinberg says.

Steinberg's co-investigators in this study are: **Drs. Donald Dougherty** and **F. Gerald Moeller**, both of the UT-Houston Mental Sciences Institute (MSI); **Drs. Ponnada A. Narayana** and **Larry A. Kramer**, both of the Department of Radiology; and **Drs. Nurun Shah**, and **Adel A. Wassef**, like Steinberg, HCPC attending physicians.