

Scoop

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston
Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

Thursday, July 26, 2001

DR. K. LANCE GOULD FEATURED ON CHANNEL 8 TONIGHT

Tonight, Thursday, July 26, at 8 p.m. on Channel 8, Dr. K. Lance Gould, Internal Medicine, the Bucksbaum Distinguished University Chair in Cardiology, will be featured on "To Heal a Heart." Sunday, July 22, Dr. Gould was featured on the cover of the TV Chronicle section of the Houston Chronicle. Walter Cronkite narrates the program this evening. Dr. Gould's Positron Emission Tomography Scanner (PET), at the Weatherhead P.E.T. Center for Preventing and Reversing Atherosclerosis, is used to produce three-dimensional images of the patient's heart and blood flow activity. Dr. Gould's technique for recovery can include weight control, cutting down on fats in the diet, exercise, and taking medication that controls cholesterol.

A blood cholesterol test that measures total cholesterol, as well as LDL ("bad") and HDL ("good") cholesterol and triglycerides (fats in the blood), is called a lipid panel or lipoprotein profile. Anyone age 20 and over is encouraged to get a lipoprotein profile.

Risk factors for heart disease include age, smoking, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, family history of premature heart disease, and obesity. Those aged 45 and over should be tested for diabetes. Another risk factor, "metabolic syndrome," is related to obesity and inactivity.

A useful site that provides information about high blood cholesterol is
<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/index.htm#chol>

If everyone followed the guidelines, experts say that 65 million Americans would change their diet and make other lifestyle changes, and as many as 36 million would take cholesterol-lowering drugs. Studies show that such actions could greatly reduce the number of deaths from heart disease, the number one killer in the U.S.

SONDRA IVES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Sondra Ives, one of the original staff members of the Medical School with 30 years of service at the School has announced she will retire Sept. 1. She currently holds dual director positions as head of Continuing Medical Education and Alumni Affairs (see Scoop, Dec. 10,

1999). Says Dean Maximilian Buja, "Sondra's extensive working knowledge of our students, faculty, and extended family of physicians makes her a very hard act to follow. I'm pleased to note that she has agreed to remain with the School on a part-time basis in the coming academic year to focus on alumni affairs programs. Meanwhile, we are already addressing leadership needs for the Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME). I'm pleased to note Willy Moore, Administrative Services, has agreed to assume the interim directorship of CME, a role she has ably held in the past. CME is an important program with a full slate of conferences and programs already planned for the fall." Notes Ives, "It has been a privilege to work at this Medical School. Since the early 1970s when Dean Smythe and a handful of staff were based in the Jesse Jones Library Building, I've watched our buildings go up, worked with every dean in the School's history, and weathered two floods. I continue to take great pride in our alumni and their many accomplishments-- most of whom I knew and worked with as students. While the impact of my retirement decision has yet to personally hit home, I'm pleased to have a part-time role with Alumni Affairs in the coming year."

ATTENTION ALL FACULTY - LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP

Nestled in the Piney Woods of Navasota, about an hour driving time out U.S. 290 West toward Austin, is Camp Allen Conference & Retreat Center. There this year's annual retreat for incoming medical students, their families, and the faculty, will be Monday Aug. 6 and Tuesday, Aug. 7. Contact Annika Gonzalez, Faculty Retreat Registration Chair, phone 713-383-6203, e-mail annikagonzalez@hotmail.com. The Camp Allen website is www.campallen.org.

DR. THOMAS CLANTON IN THE NEWS

Dr. Thomas Clanton, chair, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, was interviewed this week on his work with the STAR (Scandinavian Total Ankle Replacement) Ankle Method (Houston Chronicle, 7/24/01). The traditional method of ankle replacement, fusion, has the problem of lack of mobility. Now says a 70-yr.-old patient of Dr. Clanton's with the STAR device, "I can go half a mile, and in another three or four weeks, I'll be back in regular shoes and walk like anyone else."

The Food and Drug Administration is now studying the STAR device. Houston is one of several cities looking at its performance. Early results have been good.

DEAN'S OFFICE RELOCATED TO MSB 2.026

The Dean's Office is relocated to: MSB 2.026 (green section). Telephone numbers and fax number are the same as before the flood. Phone 713-500-5010, Fax: 713-500-0602.

Lynn Cutrer is also located in MSB 2.026 - phone: 713-500-5618.

OTHER NEW LOCATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES INCLUDE:

Assoc. Dean for Management, and staff, MSB 2.112, Fax: 713-500-0620.

Administrative Services, MSB 2.112. Fax: 713-500-0620.

Admissions, MSB 6.102. Fax: 713-500-0604.

Community Affairs and Public Education, MSB 6.119. Phone 713-500-5109; temporary Fax: 713-500-0602.

Continuing Medical Education & Alumni Affairs, MSB 2.104, Fax: 713-500-0606.

Educational Programs, MSB 7.024.

Graduate Medical Education, MSB 5.189. Fax: 713-500-0612.

Family Practice Preceptorship Program, MSB 3.146

Management Information Services, MSB 6.000. Fax: 713-500-0620.

Network Operations, MSB 6.163, Fax: 713-500-0536.

Student Affairs, JLL 320, Fax: 713-500-0616.

GRAPHICS SATELLITE GROUP SET UP IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

Graphic Communications has established a satellite service in the Medical School and are ready to take your slides, posters, publications, photo processing, printing, and multimedia requests.

A drop-off/pick-up window is located at MSB 2.028 - Conference Operations, 2nd floor near the green elevator. The window will be open daily from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Complete a work request form and furnish a name, phone number and due date.

The central Graphic Communications office is located at the Dental Branch, Rm. 452, telephone number: 713-500-5530, e-mail: digital@utdigital.net.

MEDICAL SCHOOL FITNESS CENTER REOPENS

The Medical School Fitness Center has reopened for use. Regular hours of operation have resumed Monday through Friday 6 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; it is closed on Saturday and Sundays.

The facility is open for general members. There is no formal aerobics program at this time.

Membership also entitles you to the use of the Recreation Center located on Knight Road, which includes a swimming pool and outdoor

tennis and basketball courts. For more information see www.uthouston.edu/mm/current/010723/uthtoday.htm.

JULY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - BASSEL CHOUCAIR

Patience is a quality that Bassel Choucair, our July employee of the month, has in abundance. No computer question from an employee is too mundane to answer.

Bassel has been an especially busy LAN manager since the wake of the Medical School flood. Bassel supports the computer needs of around 150 people. He and six co-workers share a very tight post-flood arrangement, 20' x 12' quarters, with files, equipment, phones, and of course, computers. He is a customer-friendly professional, who is accessible above and beyond the call of duty, say his co-workers. Especially during the unusual aftermath of the flood, Bassel could be reached at all hours of the day and night, serving all levels of computer requests, as many worked from temporary locations off campus, having been dislocated by the floodwaters.

CLINICAL RESEARCH CURRICULUM BEGINS ON AUG. 22

The Clinical Research Curriculum is designed to assist in the development of skilled clinical investigators and is especially suitable for junior faculty and clinical fellows. Classes are held every Wednesday evening from 5-6:30 p.m. in MSB 2.135. The first session for the 2001-2001 will be held on Wed., Aug. 22, on "Getting Started in Clinical Research." A 12-week course on Clinical Epidemiology will begin the following week (Aug. 29). Applications for the intensive mentorship tract of this course will be available in September.

The textbook to be used for the class is Clinical Epidemiology: The Essentials by Robert H. Fletcher, Suzanne W. Fletcher, and Edward H. Wagner, 3rd edition, Williams & Wilkins, 1996. Majors Scientific Books will have the book available for \$29.95 beginning July 30. Another textbook to be used during the Clinical Research Curriculum is Designing Clinical Research by Stephen B. Hulley, Steven R. Cummings, et al, 2nd edition, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, 2001. This book also is available at Majors Scientific Books for \$45. For information regarding the course, call 713-500-5651.

DR. MURAD TO PARTICIPATE IN AAMC'S ANNIVERSARY EVENT

The 112th AAMC Annual Meeting, "Facing the Future," will this year take place Nov. 2-7 in Washington, D.C. A "Research Roundtable" at

the meeting will feature a panel of four Nobel Laureates: David Baltimore, Ph.D., J. Michael Bishop, M.D., Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D., and Torsten N. Wiesel, M.D. The panel will be moderated by Donald Kennedy, Ph.D., editor-in-chief of Science magazine.

This year's meeting marks the AAMC's 125th anniversary, which will be celebrated in a number of ways during the gathering. Noted historian and Pulitzer Prize-winner Doris Kearns Goodwin will deliver the keynote address.

Preliminary programs are in the mail, and program, registration, and hotel information is available on the Web at www.aamc.org/meetings/annual/2001

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