



Scoop

Fri., Feb. 1, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

February

- 1 **Today. Clinical Research Curriculum, Intro. to Clinical Trials, "Data Collection and Management,"** 5 - 6:30 p.m., MSB 2.135.
- 4 **Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series, noon, Dr. Dean Sheppard, "Integrin-Mediated TGF Beta Activation,"** MSB 2.135.
- Radiology Research Seminar, Dr. Joseph A. Frank on cellular imaging,** 5 p.m., MSB 2.103.
- 7 **Understanding Social Inequalities in Health, 4 p.m., Sir Michael Marriot, Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy.**
- 9 **Preventive Cardiology Forum XII, 7 a.m. - 12:20 p.m., MSB 3.001.**

UT Most Interest

Dr. Gage Van Horn, Neurology, was quoted (*Houston Chronicle*, 1-29-02), concerning the efficacy of a new device, called DBS (deep brain stimulation) to treat Parkinson symptoms... **Dr. Sozos Papisozomenos**, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, was quoted (*Houston Chronicle*, 1-24-02), on testosterone's potential as a possible key player in combatting Alzheimer's disease.



Dr. Guy L. Clifton

CLIFTON TO DIRECT MISSION CONNECT

Dr. Guy L. Clifton, Rannels Distinguished Chair and professor, Neurosurgery, has been named director of Mission Connect. Mission Connect is a TIRR-led (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) consortium of three medical schools — UT-Houston, UTMB in Galveston and Baylor, and will conduct collaborative research in central nervous system injuries, including the consequences of spinal cord injury. "Many of the patients Clifton sees in the operating room at Memorial Hermann Hospital are later transferred to TIRR for rehabilitation. He knows the hope that Mission Connect affords these patients and their families," said E. Ashley Smith, president and CEO, TIRR Systems. Clifton

maintains an active clinical practice, directs Neurosurgery's research program, and is the principal investigator of a \$7.2M NIH study designed to test moderate systemic cooling as a treatment for acute, severe brain injury, a treatment he developed.

SUZANNE TAYLOR NAMED NEW CME DIRECTOR

With 11 years of experience in the health industry, **Suzanne Taylor, M.P.H.** comes on board as Continuing Medical Education's new director. She is no stranger to leadership. Her master's degree, earned at the U.T. School of Public Health, concentrated in public health education and health promotion. Her undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, was earned at Southwest Texas State University, where she majored in psychology and minored in biology. A former employee of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson, she was associate director of CME where she enhanced accreditation, and streamlined CME procedures. She also initiated and coordinated acquisition of CME credit, education events, and coordinated marketing tools and distribution. At Texas Children's Hospital, Taylor was a Patient Education Health Education Coordinator, where she developed education programs for families of children with cancer and asthma. She increased blood donations at the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and has spoken extensively on whole blood, apheresis, and bone marrow donations.



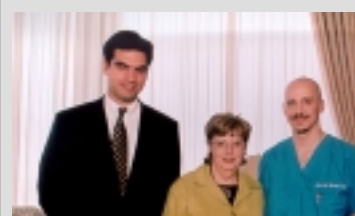
Suzanne Taylor

FIND OUT WHAT'S NEW IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Higher education faculty and students in the Houston area are invited to attend "Advances in Teaching and Learning Day 2002," 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, **Feb. 14**, at the University Center Tower, 7000 Fannin. Hosted by The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, the event is the third annual conference to showcase research and innovations in teaching, learning, and technology by faculty in the Texas Medical Center community. "Designing Powerful Instruction for the Web" will be the topic of the noon keynote speaker, **James D. Slotta, Ph.D.**, research cognitive scientist and director of the WISE Project at the Graduate School of Education, the University of California-Berkeley.

Scholarship News -

The Gian L. Giannotti Memorial Scholarship was established by Mrs. Paola Giannotti in honor of her late husband, a patient of



Dr. Frank Arnett. From left to right: student

- **Christopher Tehlirian**, MS IV, this year's scholarship recipient; **Paola Giannotti**; and her son **Dr. Marco A. Giannotti**.



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IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HEART MONTH – GET FIT!



In recognition of National Heart Month, the Recreation/Fitness Centers are offering a membership discount during the month of February. Any member purchasing a 3-month membership is eligible for the special 15 percent discount listed off the regular membership rate. (The 15 percent discount is also valid on a quarterly family package). The membership is valid for use at the Recreation Center (7779 Knight Road) and the Fitness Center (8th Floor MSB).

This offer is valid until **Feb. 28** and only for one 3-month membership, per person. All new members, and current members whose membership expires by March 31, are eligible for the discount. However, they must purchase the membership special by Feb. 28 to receive the discount. For more information, visit the Web site at <<http://ae.uth.tmc.edu>> and click on the Recreation Center section.

TENTH ANNUAL HEALTH CARE TEAM COMPETITION FEB. 26

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is making final preparations for the Tenth Annual Health Care Team Competition, which will take place 5:30 p.m., Tues., **Feb. 26**, at the UT-Houston Medical School, MSB 3.001. Students are from UT-Houston, Texas Southern University, and the University of Houston, in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, law, and social work.

Students are presented with a test case designed to test their problem-solving skills before a panel of judges and a live audience. This year the test case will concern errors made in the medical field. UT-Houston Auxiliary Enterprises will supply \$100 scholarships to each member of the winning team, who will also each receive an engraved award. Fifty-dollar scholarships go to those placing second, and \$25 for those placing third. A reception honoring the participating students will take place after the competition.



IMPROVING HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

The Healthy Professions Partnership Initiative (HPPI), sponsored by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, provides funding to organizations that improve health and education opportunities for young people in their local communities. *HPPI Digest*, a weekly e-mail newsletter created by the partnership, is now available to anyone interested in receiving information about K-12 grade health and education issues, scholarship, and funding opportunities. For information or to subscribe, write Ella Cleveland, The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), <ecleveland@aamc.org>.

CONFRONTING HEALTH DISPARITIES SYMPOSIUM FEB. 6

Does ethnicity, education, economics, and the environment impact health outcomes? Come and find out at a free Confronting Health Disparities Symposium, 8:30 a.m. – noon, Wed., **Feb. 6**, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe Blvd. **Dr. Yvonne Maddox**, Assistant U.S. Surgeon General and Acting Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, and **Dr. Steve Klineberg**, sociologist at Rice University, will speak on the issues. The event is sponsored by the City of Houston's Health and Human Services Department.

KNUDSON WINS MCGOVERN AWARD & ADDRESSES INFORMED CONSENT ISSUES

Paula L. Knudson, (center, below), executive coordinator, Office of Research Support Communities, was this year's McGovern Award recipient at the Southwest Chapter of the American Medical Writer's Association's function Jan. 23 at the Houston Plaza Hilton. She presented "The Minefields Surrounding Informed Consent for Research."



- photo by C. O'Brien

Minefields in informed choice, in Knudson's terms, are "the language of the document, the setting in which consent is attempted, and the vulnerability of the potential subjects." Espousing the theme "we must continue the quest to find creative ways to make informed choice to participate in research more meaningful," Knudson outlined her concerns, including what constitutes informed consent, such as a description of the study and subjects' participation; a description of reasonably foreseeable risks (physical, psychological, legal, social) and benefits; a description of alternative procedures or courses of treatment; confidentiality issues; and available compensation.

Informed consent issues are being studied on a national level. A task force on conflicts of interest in clinical research, formed two years ago by The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), produced 2001 guidelines called "Protecting Subjects, Preserving Trust, Promoting Progress." The guidelines are on the Web at <<http://www.aamc.org/members/coitf/>>.