



Scoop

Fri., March 8, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

6-10 American Medical Students Assoc. Nat.'l Convention, Hyatt Regency downtown. Info: <www.amsa.org>.

11 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series Lecture, noon, MSB 2.135.

13 HUB Vendor Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., OCB, 1851 Cross Point Rio Grande Rm.

14 Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Lecture, 4 p.m., MSB 2.103.

19 Genes and the Brain, free public forum, 5:30 - 7 p.m., MSB 3.001.

21 Match Day, 11 a.m., Webber Plaza.

23 Genes and the Brain, free public forum, 10:30 a.m. - noon, MSB 3.001.

Study Time, Learning Resource Center Style, Returns



Students make use of the newly refurbished temporary LRC, in MSB 1.006.

The temporary Learning Resource Center (LRC) for students, in MSB 1.006, is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are 50 networked computers and printers. Also the lounge across the breezeway (the former cafeteria) is functional with easy seating and a quiet study area with 19 carrels. "Once network cabling is completed, there will also be computers stationed there as well," said **Karim P. Marani**, director, LRC.

UT Most Interest

Dr. Patricia Butler, associate dean, Education Programs, and professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, has been formally appointed to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Institutional Review Committee...**Dr. Bruce Kone**, Internal Medicine, was named to the Executive and Program Committees of the American Heart Association Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease...**Dr. James H. "Red" Duke**, introduced a "Grossology" exhibit, a fun and educational look at the human body, Space Center Houston, during spring break this past week...**Dr. Joseph Nates**, has been inducted as a fellow in the American College of Critical Care Medicine...**Dr. Robert S. Tan**, Family Practice and Community Medicine, was quoted concerning custodial and medical care of centenarians, (*American Medical News*, Feb. 18 issue).

FYI - **Dr. Donald Dougherty**, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, sponsored graduate student **Dawn M. Marsh**, who will receive a two-year nearly \$50,000 grant, "Biological Relationships to Alcohol-Induced Aggression," from the National Institute on Alcohol and Alcoholism. Marsh also will receive the "Roberta M. & Jean M. Worsham Endowed Scholarship in the Behavioral Neurosciences" award during Brain Awareness Week.

BIDANI TAKES PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE DIRECTOR SPOT

Dr. Akhil Bidani will become director, Pulmonary and Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Internal Medicine, effective April 1. He is presently a professor and chief, Division of Pulmonary Medicine at The University of Texas Medical Branch. He also is adjunct professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University and in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at The University of Texas, Austin. "He is an outstanding physician-scientist, teacher, and clinician, and I am sure he will be a great asset to our school," said **Dr. Frank Arnett**, chairman, Internal Medicine. Dr. Bidani is an investigator in the areas of the mechanisms and kinetics of microvascular gas and ion transport, intracellular pH and its regulation in lung cells. He received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Houston and his medical degree from UTMB. Among his honors are election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and elected fellow to the American College of Critical Care Medicine and the American College of Chest Physicians.



Dr. Akhil Bidani

\$20M BROWN FOUNDATION GIFT IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

The largest single contribution ever given to UT-Houston Health Science Center is a five-year \$20M Brown Foundation grant to help fund construction of a new research building for the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases (IMM). "The gift from the Brown Foundation is a wonderful recognition for UTHSCH. This large gift is a huge step toward accomplishing our target for the capital campaign," **Dean Max Buja** said. The Brown Foundation, Inc. has been a supporter of UT-Houston since the early 1970s.



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ENJOY FUN FAMILY EVENTS AT THE JOHN P. MCGOVERN MUSEUM OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCE

The John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science, an interactive science center, will celebrate its 6th anniversary with various free events for the whole family throughout March and April. These include Tickle's Traveling Toothbrush Show —which is a live musical performance promoting oral hygiene, dissections of sheep's brains, videos exploring the molecular side of the human body, and hands-on science mini classes.

Also, it's not too early to think about Summer Discovery Camps, June 10- Aug. 2, for ages 6-7, 8-10, and 11-13. Registration begins March 16, by fax, mail, Internet, or walk-in. For more information, check the Web site at www.museumofhealth.org, fax 713-942-7055, or come to the museum, 1515 Hermann Drive. Free admission is offered from 4 to 7 p.m. on Free Family Thursdays.

UNDERSTANDING SCHIZOPHRENIA CONFERENCE IS SET FOR MARCH 14

Mental illness in this country has long carried a stigma. The film *A Beautiful Mind*, with New Zealand-born actor Russell Crowe, comes to mind as a serious and thoughtful look at the life of brilliant Nobel Prize winner and mathematician, John Forbes Nash Jr., who suffered from schizophrenia.

A real opportunity to learn more about this disease will be made available on Thurs., **March 14**, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., with a free breakfast and free lunch, at the Hilton Houston Plaza, 6633 Travis. The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences is co-sponsoring a free conference on schizophrenia, "Schizophrenia: Research Advances in Understanding, Treatment and Effective Community Rehabilitation."

Speakers will include **Dr. Daniel Weinberger**, chief, Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, NIH. He will talk about the latest advances in understanding the neurobiology and genetics of schizophrenia. **Dr. Donna A. Wirshing**, co-chief, Schizophrenia Outpatient Treatment Clinic, Los Angeles, will address current pharmacotherapeutic options for the treatment of schizophrenia. And **Dr. Robert P. Liberman**, director, UCLA Psychiatry REHAB program, will comment on "Rehabilitation for Community Re-integration for Individuals with Mental Illness: from Disease Management to Employment - Teaching Patients to Become Their Own Case Managers."

Six hours of CME/CEU credit available. To register, e-mail <Brenda.Schubert@med.va.gov>.

CCPH FELLOWS PROGRAM CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

The Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) Fellows Program is calling for applications from academic administrators, faculty, and community-based professionals who provide leadership in service-learning, community-based participatory research, and community-campus partnerships. CCPH Fellows will receive \$5,000 during the first year, with the potential for a second year of funding. The application deadline is April 1, 2002. Information: Rachel Vaughn, CCPH, <rvaughn@u.washington.edu>, or go to <<http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/fellows.html>>. (Source: AAMC Stat, 3-4-02).



HITTING A HIGH NOTE - Guest narrator Barbara Bush, center, joined Libi Lebel, director, and the rest of the Doctors Orchestra of Houston's "A Journey of Imagination" concert Feb. 23.

WOMEN'S LUNCHTIME HEALTH SERIES MARCH 21

UT Physicians is hosting a "Women's Lunchtime Health Series" Thurs., **March 21**, noon-1:15 p.m., MSB 3.001. The event is open to all interested nurses, physicians, employees, faculty, and students. **Dr. Joan Bull**, Internal Medicine/Oncology, will address "Breast Cancer: The Story on Mammograms and More," and **Dr. Shahla Nader**, Internal Medicine/Endocrinology, will speak on "Estrogen Replacement and Menopause: What You Need to Know." To RSVP, call 1-222-4UTDocs, or e-mail <RSVP@ucplus.org>. Complimentary boxed lunches fare available for the first 300 people to RSVP by Thurs., **March 14**.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS SINGAPORE PRISON PERSONNEL

The Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine recently hosted more than seven program directors and counselors in the Singapore Prison Service in a Specialized Treatment Program (STP). **Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez**, associate professor, conducted the workshop. The Singapore personnel came to learn about the TransTheoretical Model (TTM) of Behavior Change. The STP was developed to provide imprisoned criminal offenders with treatment for substance abuse and other addictive behaviors. A primary interest of the Singapore Prison group is the ability to assess an inmate's motivation to change his/her behavior and "readiness" for treatment.



Dr. Mary Marden Velasquez, Dept. of Family Practice and Community Medicine, (far left in photo), and other faculty hosted Singapore Prison System program directors and counselors.