



Scoop

Dec. 13, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

December

16 Dr. Randy Legerski addressing the SNM1 gene family, 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.

January

15 Town Hall Meeting, noon, MSB 2.135.

UTMost Interest

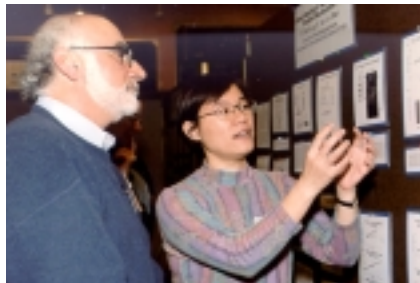
Dr. Amitava Dasgupta, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, was an invited speaker for the 9th Asian Pacific Conference in New Delhi, India, where he gave a talk on "Clinical Utility of Free Drug Monitoring...**Dr. Harvey Rosenberg**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, received the Distinguished Physician Award from Memorial Hermann Hospital.

BRIDGING GRANTS DUE JAN. 15

Requests must be received by **Jan. 15**, for a renewal grant application that has not been funded with the past 9 months by a federal agency and within the top 35th percentile. Send to **Dr. John Byrne**, MSB 7.046. Proposals up to \$30,000 for up to one year maintenance can be submitted. Include a statement letter from the PI's chairperson, a summary statement, the reviewer's comments, continuing and new research. Also provide the previous summary budget.

THREE NAMED TOP NEUROSCIENCE POSTER SESSION WINNERS

Names of the winners of the Ninth Annual Neuroscience Poster Session, hosted by the Neuroscience Research Center, are in. Leading the list is **Marcy Wainwright**, Graduate Student Category, (**Dr. Len Cleary**, adviser). She won the Dee S. and Patricia Osborne Endowed Scholarship in the Neurosciences, a \$500 prize awarded through GSBS. In the Postdoc Category, there were two first-place prizes awarded. One was awarded to **Qing Yan**, (**Dr. Andy Bean** lab) and the other was awarded to **Silvia Amador-Garza** (**Dr. Anne Sereno** lab). The two winners will receive a \$250 prize each from the Neuroscience Research Center. A special thanks is extended to the eight judges:



Qing Yan describes her project to **Dr. John Byrne** during the Ninth Annual Neuroscience Poster Session.

Gregory Cahill, Ph.D., of the University of Houston; **Michael Crair, Ph.D.**, Baylor; **Arnold Eskin, Ph.D.**, University of Houston; **Ray Glantz, Ph.D.**, Rice University; **Ray Grill, Ph.D.**, UT-H Medical School; **Mike Mauk, Ph.D.**, UT-H Medical School; **Tony Ro, Ph.D.**, Rice University; and **David Sweatt, Ph.D.**, Baylor. Special thanks also to The Ellwood Foundation, Dee S. and Patricia Osborne, the Linda and Ronny Finger Foundation, and donors: BW3 Grill and Bar, Chili's Grill and Bar, Houston Symphony, Six Flags Astroworld, Two Rows Restaurant & Brewery, the UT-Houston Bookstore, and the Graphic Communications Group. Congratulations winners.

BURKS MEMORIAL COMPUTER FUND CHARITY LAUNCHED

The Arizona charity (501c3) ChildLight Foundation for Afghan Children is seeking to raise \$5,000-\$6,000 to purchase six to eight PCs and related equipment to establish a medical education learning laboratory for the students of the Nangarhar University Medical Faculty, the second largest medical school in Afghanistan. The school has 800 enrolled students, of which 30-40 are women. They currently have no computers for student education. The Foundation has already arranged for free Internet access to online courses for the lab and for a donation of current medical courses on CDs.

Dottie Burks, the spouse of the late **Thomas F. Burks, Ph.D.**, has made a generous donation to get the Thomas F. Burks Memorial Computer Fund under way. Dr. Burks was University of Arizona Health Sciences Center professor, department head, and associate dean for research from 1977-1991, and executive vice president for research and academic affairs at UT-H Health Science Center from 1991-2001. He was internationally known for his research on opiates and addiction and for his efforts to help colleagues and students in disadvantaged countries around the world, including Mexico, Brazil, Vietnam, India, and China.

Donations should be specified for the Thomas F. Burks Memorial Computer Fund, and can be made by mail to: ChildLight Foundation, 1001 N. Pasadena St., Suite 121, Mesa, AZ 85201, or online at the Foundation's Web site, <www.childlightfoundation.org>. For more information, call 480-964-5484.



IN THE NEWS -

Faculty well-wishers attended the Dean's reception Dec. 10 to recognize

Dr. Ronald Rapini

Dr. Robert

Jordon, departing chairman, Dermatology, and welcome **Dr. Ronald Rapini**, the new Dermatology chair.



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TURKEY WINNERS GOBBLE UP THE GOODS

Winners of the ERC (Employee Relations Council) Turkey Raffle held Nov. 20 are: **Susan Jones, Robert Molnoski, Sylvia Reyes, Clara Chamberlain, Margaret Chelette, Israel Leal, Sandra Brink, Liz Luna, Caroline Molnoskey, and Norma Gonzales.** Each received a \$20 gift card from Krogers. Congratulations!

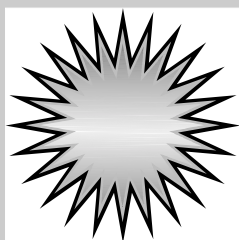
NURSING NEWS FOR NEW MOMS

The nursing mothers' room has moved to the Jesse Jones Library, Suite 302. See **Alexis Basha, JJL 400,** to check out the key to this private room.

DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - PATRICK GUTHRIE

Our December employee of the month is **Patrick Guthrie**, a senior research assistant in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology and he's one in a million.

Patrick has a veterinary science degree from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. He has four siblings, including a brother, Emery, who's a paralegal and a sister, Marie, who's a senior bank executive. His brother, Fitzgerald, is a mechanical engineer who received his training in Bristol, England, and who now works in Jamaica. Patrick's sister, Hyacinth, is a nurse in Connecticut. Patrick has been with the UT system since October of 1991. He first worked in **Dr. Bradford Goodwin's** area and in the first five months mastered lab animal technician and technologist status.



He now works with **Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier.** "Mr. Guthrie has worked for me for nearly twelve years," Dr. Taegtmeier said. "He is all about loyalty, reliability, and cheerfulness. He has a special talent working with and caring for animals, and he is a world-class expert in the isolated working heart model that I developed as a graduate student in the late 1970s."

"My greatest joy is to see the heart beat again, when I'm working in the lab. And yes, I like animals," Patrick laughed. "I'm very proud of my goldfish at home, Flipper, who grew from 1/2 inch to over 8 inches! I also am fond of my two parrots, Petey and Zachary, as well as an assortment of parakeets and doves, about 25 in all. Oh, and I have three dogs — Spotrick, a spitz, labrador retriever; Chico, a pomeranian, and Samantha, also a pomeranian."

Because of his many contributions to a large number of projects in the laboratory (all involving the isolated working rat heart model), Patrick has become the co-author of 11 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including *Molecular Cell*, the *American Journal of Physiology*, and *Clinical Diabetes*. His warmhearted personality has earned him many friends throughout the Medical School and the entire Texas Medical Center. "He is a wonderful ambassador for the lab," Dr. Taegtmeier said.

As that informal ambassador, Patrick has taught and trained young visiting scientists from near and far, not only from all over the United States, but as far away as Britain, Germany, Japan, Trinidad, and the Sudan.

Patrick has a poetic side. It's evident in his speech: "I am an Anglican by faith, and a peaceful person by principle. I believe in dialogue when there are differences.

We spend billions on defense mechanisms that kill; here, my research is all about saving lives." And it's evident in his slogans, neatly appearing above his workstation: "Home is where you hang your heart." And: "Dear Lord unto thee I pray/Please let this heart pump today/But if by chance it should fail/I will return bright-eyed and bushy-tailed." He smiles when asked about his poetry, and will tell you, "My philosophy is simple. As I explained to my children while they were growing up—the reason why people fail is that they don't plan. They will say 'I didn't plan to fail; but I failed to plan.' He grinned. "I am all about planning."

For his 25th wedding anniversary, in typical Patrick style, while in Jamaica, he took over the microphone and sang to his wife Eureka, "You're One in a Million," the hit single recorded by the Swedish artist, Basson, and made famous in the Sandra Bullock movie, "Miss Congeniality."

Because of his proficiency with isolated working heart perfusions, Patrick won the nickname "The World's Best Heart Perfuser," but here at UT-Houston, he also could be considered "**Mr.** Congeniality."



Patrick Guthrie