



Scoop

May 17, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

May

17 UT Pathology Research Seminar, Dr. Donald A. Fox, on apoptosis in photoreceptors of lead-exposed mice, noon, MSB 2.024.

23 ANNUAL FACULTY MEETING, 11:45 A.M. - 1 P.M., MSB 3.001. LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 11:30 A.M. TO THE FIRST 200. THE MEETING WILL BE TELECAST TO THE LBJ/ANNEX AUDITORIUM/ROOM 217. ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

June

1 Commencement, 10 a.m., George R. Brown Convention Center Assembly Hall.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Ponnada Narayana, Radiology, was awarded a \$2.5M NIH grant, "Magnetic Resonance of Spinal Cord Injury."



TAKE 'EM OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Join the fun, UT Night at Astros Field, at 7:05 p.m., Friday, **May 24**, Houston Astros vs. Chicago Cubs. Tickets are first come first serve; cost is \$10 for seats. For information, call 713-500-8420.



AAMC DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Next December 14-17, the very popular Early Career Women Faculty Seminar sponsored by the AAMC, will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Department chairs should submit their nominations of their junior women faculty to the Office of Faculty Affairs by Monday, **June 10**.

For questions, contact **Juanita Mattingly** in the Office of Faculty Affairs at 713-500-5103 or <juanita.mattingly@uth.tmc.edu>.

DR. MCGRAW-WALL PARTICIPATES IN 'FAITH IN PRACTICE'

What does it take to be a volunteer and to continually come back as a volunteer? For **Dr. Becky McGraw-Wall**, vice chairman and associate professor, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, it takes a special kind of faith, specifically "Faith in Practice." The latter is a local Houston organization composed of hardy medical and dental professionals who annually travel to Antigua, Guatemala to care for Third World patients, perform surgery, and do post operative care for an intense week.

McGraw-Wall recently came back from her eighth week-long volunteer trip with Faith in Practice. "While in Antigua, we stay at the Quinta de las Flores (House of Flowers). The rooms aren't much to brag about, but the grounds are exquisite. There are big flowers everywhere." Antigua is a Central American town founded in the 16th century with architecture influenced by the Italian Renaissance. The streets are covered in cobblestone, and over 5,000 feet above sea level, Antigua lies in the valley of Panchoy. It is near the Agua and Fuego volcanic summits. The country —Guatemala — is steeped in ancient Mayan history; today 22 Indian groups survive, all direct descendants of the Maya.

McGraw-Wall's patients come to see her from all over the country. They come to Antigua's Franciscan Catholic mission, the Obras Sociales Hermano Pedro Hospital and Orphanage. It is a unique multiservice center, housing the chronically ill, the mentally challenged, the elderly, and orphans. The clinic is set up to do plastic, ear, nose and throat, orthopedic, gynecological, and general surgeries. In one week McGraw-Wall will perform an average of 20 two-hour surgeries, normally cleft lip or cleft palate repairs on children, babies, and adults. "This is the most rewarding kind of surgery. The people there are so appreciative; you can feel their gratitude," McGraw-Wall said.

A cleft palate is a birth defect that occurs in the eighth to 12th week after conception. It is an opening in the roof of the mouth that exists because structures between the mouth and the nose did not fuse together properly. Cleft lip or palate occurs once in every 700 births. A child can have a cleft lip, a cleft palate, or both. Cleft lip and cleft palate are genetic birth defects that are usually associated with what is called "multifactorial inheritance." This means that in most cases the cleft palate was caused by multiple genes from both parents.

Once McGraw-Wall performed surgery on a young 25-year-old Quiche Indian from a mountain village. The man was an outcast from his tribe because of his medical condition. "It really was a dramatic story. The young man had to take a three-day riverboat ride and then be flown in to us by helicopter. After the operation, he just grinned, and said, 'I can smile now,'" she said.

McGraw Wall said that both she and her spouse, Larry, feel strongly that their young children, Jonathan and Allyson, when they're old enough, will accompany them to the mission. "It's important for our children to help out and to see how lucky they are to be living in this country," she said. - C. O'Brien



Dr. Becky McGraw-Wall (r.), and her patient.



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Manager
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597
E-Scoop online:
<http://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/comm/scoop/>
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Celebrating Teaching Excellence**HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY AWARD FOR HUMANISM IN MEDICINE**

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey has provided funds to the Medical School for the past four years, to honor humanism in medicine. **Dr. Oscar Rosales**, co-director, Clinical Cardiology, and medical director, Coronary Care Unit, Memorial Hermann Hospital, is this year's recipient of the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey Award for Humanism in Medicine.

The faculty member chosen for this award exemplifies a consistent compassion and empathy when dealing with patients; serves as a role model for students and colleagues; welcomes opportunities for one-on-one mentorships with students; and demonstrates cultural sensitivity in working with patients and family members of diverse ethnic or religious backgrounds.

Mentors like **Dr. Jim Willerson**, president, UT-Houston, and **Dr. Larry Cohen**, Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Rosales said, were inspirational in helping him to relate to patients, staff, and students with an "attitude of connection and compassion."

In addition to a hospital position at Memorial Hermann, Dr. Rosales also has both academic and teaching positions at the Medical School. He received his medical degree from Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia, and joined the Medical School team in 1997. He received the Dean's Excellence Award for two consecutive years, 2000 and 2001, as well as Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award/Cardiology Division in June of 2000. He is a member of the Faculty Senate Committee and has served as chairman, Interventional Cardiology QA, since June 1999. He has published extensively in his field, which covers thrombosis, atherosclerosis, and myocardial infarction, and has implemented many grants in those areas as well.

Past recipients of this award are: **Dr. Phil Johnson** (Internal Medicine, Division of General Medicine), **Dr. John R. Stroehlein** (Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology), and **Dr. Philip R. Orlander** (Internal Medicine, Endocrinology).



Dr. Oscar Rosales

DOCTORS ORCHESTRA OF HOUSTON PREMIERES "CELEBRATION FANFARE"

Doctors Orchestra of Houston will premiere a piece especially written for the group at its last concert of the season Saturday, **June 1**. "Celebration Fanfare" was written by Frederick Hanna, the music coordinator at Creighton University in Nebraska and the conductor of the Wind Ensemble and University Orchestra. "Celebration Fanfare is a celebration of life, living, and the pursuit of all good things," Hanna said. The principal flautist in the orchestra, Lynn Zechiedrich, is friends with the composer and sent him a CD of the orchestra's May concert. "The CD and his friendship with Lynn inspired this piece, which is a modern/John Williams-type piece," said **Libi Lebel**, conductor and founder of Doctors Orchestra of Houston. "This is a fun piece for us and will be our opener."



The volunteer orchestra, made up of medical professionals from the Texas Medical Center, also will perform Grieg's Piano Concerto with soloist **Zoya Shuhatovich** at the piano and Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9 'New World.'" "We have been working up to New World," Lebel said. "It takes a certain stamina, and the piece is 35 - 40 minutes, but it is very beautiful. It is inspired by folk themes from America, combined with those from Czechoslovakia."

Soloist Shuhatovich received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance in 1982 from the Gorky State Conservatory in Russia. She immigrated to the United States in 1993 and the following year was appointed to the faculty of the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston.

"We are very lucky that a professional soloist such as Zoya has agreed to play with us. She has inspired us to listen and work better as a group," Lebel said. The final concert of the season will take place at 7 p.m. at Stude Concert Hall at Rice University.



Zoya Shuhatovich

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and children, and may be purchased with check or cash only. Tickets are available at H&H Music Company, 5510 Wesleyan in the Wesleyan Plaza Shopping Center, 713-666-2090; or AllRecords, 1955 W. Gray, at the River Oaks Shopping Center, 713-524-4900. Tickets also will be sold at the door. For more information, call 713-842-1520 or check out www.doctorsorchestrahouston.org. - **D. Brown**