



Scoop

Nov. 15, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

November

20 Friends of the Medical School, 5:30- 7:30 p.m. Speakers **Drs. Larry Gilstrap** and **K. Lance Gould,** MSB 3.001. R.S.V.P. 713-500-5010.

December

2 Faculty Development Leave Proposals Due to MSB 7.130. See <www.med.uth.tmc.edu/faculty/guidelines.htm>. Call 713-500-5103.

UTMost Interest

Ronald Bankst from Bankston L.L.P. gave \$10,000 to the Children's Fund, Inc. Professorship in Pediatric Surgery Trauma...**Dr. Kimberly L. Napoli**, asst. dean of Admissions and assoc. professor of Surgery, gave an invited presentation at the recent International Federation of Clinical Chemistry Congress in Kyoto, Japan on "Sirolimus: TDM for this once-a-day drug"...**Dr. Bradford Goodwin**, executive director, Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care, and his staff received full accreditation on a recent site visit from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

NOTE - During the upcoming holiday season, *Scoop* will publish **Nov. 22** but not **Nov. 29, Dec. 27, or Jan. 3**. The first issue in '03 will be out **Jan. 10**.



The fall edition of *UT-Houston Medicine* is out. The magazine, "In Search of Tomorrow's Miracles," features some of the Medical School's top researchers, as well as an in-depth interview

with **Dean Buja**, and candid interviews with some of the Medical School's cast of characters on the summer TV series, "Houston Medical." To pick up a copy, come by Room 400 in the Jesse Jones Library.

EDUCATING WOMEN IS KEY, SAYS LEAD STROKE AUTHOR LABICHE

Stroke is the leading cause of disability in American adults and the third leading cause of death. Previous studies have shown that women who have a stroke are more likely to die than men; or,



Dr. Lise Labiche

if they survive, more likely to have a poor outcome. Women are more likely to report nontraditional symptoms of pain like headache, face pain and limb pain, disorientation and change in consciousness, hiccups, nausea and general weakness, and symptoms that aren't likely to be neurological, such as chest pain, shortness of breath, and palpitations.

Stroke experts urge women to become more familiar with the traditional symptoms of stroke — sudden onset of weakness or numbness on one side of the body, difficulty speaking or understanding, facial drooping, clumsiness or inability to walk.

A study published in the November issue of *Annals of Emergency Medicine* by stroke specialists from The University of Texas Medical School at Houston and the University of Michigan Health System concludes that recognition of the symptom differences could help women be evaluated and treated faster and more effectively.

"Unless diseases are specifically studied in women, it can be wrongly assumed that women and men behave the same way," said lead author **Lise Labiche, M.D.**, a stroke fellow at UT-Houston. "It is crucial to recognize that differences do occur between the genders. In stroke, prompt recognition of nontraditional stroke symptoms by patients, paramedics, and emergency staff may increase the number of women receiving clot-dissolving drugs and reduce the disability they suffer."

Lewis Morgenstern, M.D., formerly of UT-Houston and now with the University of Michigan, suggests that women assess their personal risk of stroke based on their age and medical history and talk to their medical providers about how to reduce their risk and to seek immediate medical attention for any sudden change in condition.

The findings showed: overall, 28 percent of women reported "nontraditional" stroke symptoms, as opposed to 19 percent of men. — *S. Rasp*

UPCOMING AWARDS BANQUET HONORS OUTSTANDING WOMEN

The Committee on the Status of Women Distinguished Professional Woman's Award banquet will take place Tues., **Dec. 3**, 6:30 p.m., at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe. **Melinda Hill Perrin**, this year's recipient of the award, is former vice chair and board member of the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System and a current board member of the Memorial Hermann Foundation. She was nominated by **Dean Max Buja**. Also being recognized for the President's Mentor Awards are: **Sally Vernon, Ph.D.**, faculty, School of Public Health; **Rose Mary Valencia**, A&P, International Affairs; and **Susan Fernandez**, classified staff, Health Science Center Academic Affairs and Research Affairs. For tickets, call 713-500-3065 by Nov. 22.



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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FIRST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON LAUNCHED NOV. 4



Assembly of student scholarship winners and donors at the First Annual Scholarship Luncheon, Nov. 4, at the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science.

Scholarship donors and recipients of the Medical School were recognized during the first scholarship luncheon Mon., Nov. 4, at the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science. Donors who have established scholarship funds assisted almost 50 students with education expenses this year.

“The heart and soul of an institution like ours is the quality of its people, and that’s where scholarships come in to play,” said **Dean Max Buja**. On average, medical school graduates across the U.S. carry a student loan debt that tops \$100,000. It is an enormous financial burden, Buja said, and one that



Dean Max Buja with Sher-Lu Pai and Anthony Sutton.

may keep some students from pursuing their dreams to become doctors.

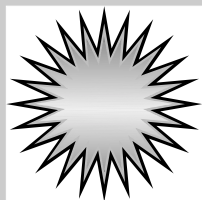
The generosity of donors to the Dierks Surgical Scholarship Fund, the Ernst Knobil Scholarship Fund, the John C. Ribble Endowed Scholarship Fund, and many more funds is helping ease that financial strain so students at UT-Houston can achieve their goals. For more information, or to become a donor, contact **Debbie Gligor** at 713-500-5002, or <Debbie.Gligor@uth.tmc.edu>.



Dr. Andrew Harper with Idalia Alaniz (I.), and Cynthia Alvarado.

NOVEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - SANDI SHAW

Neurology’s nurse manager **Sandi Shaw** is our November Employee of the Month. A no-nonsense woman who looks directly at the camera but smiles broadly and is passionate about her job. “I came to UT-Houston in 1996 from the Emergency Room, where I worked in trauma, general care, and in the pedi units. What gets me up each morning is knowing that each day we have a chance to save lives.”



Sandi works with the best stroke team in the world, she’ll tell you. Right now Sandi is working on a large \$5M grant, “SPOTRIAS,” (Specialized Programs of Translational Research in Acute Stroke), with **Dr. James Grotta**, where she will help manage five clinical trials and four indirect trials. She just got back from a conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., and is full of enthusiasm about learning new ways of treating and/or reversing damage due to strokes. “I have seen remarkable recovery in stroke patients who have been given the clot busting drug tPA,” she said. “When the family does their job and calls 9-1-1 within minutes of a stroke onset, and if tPA is administered shortly thereafter, there’s complete recovery. For me, there’s nothing more satisfying.”

A native Houstonian, Sandi is the seventh child and has three brothers and three sisters. Her favorite canine friend is her dog, a little dachshund, “Sneaky,” and her favorite traveling or just hanging out human friend is Birthelle Washington.

Sandi trains nurses in her group; “we’re all a team,” she says. “We each have unique strengths; we pool together to make the collective whole work.” Sandi interacts with a wide assortment of personnel, from faculty to patients, and is widely known for going to the patients’ homes, if need be, on the weekends, to make sure their needs are met. Her co-workers also say that when a pharmaceutical company audits the department, Sandi’s paperwork comes through each time with flying colors.

Sandi’s favorite moment this year was finding out she was nominated for a Nursing Excellence award by the Texas Nurses Association. And her patients are her biggest fans. She’s known for calling them back within 24 hours. “It’s embarrassing, really,” she smiled. “I receive, on the average, five to seven gifts a month from my patients – from calculators to Star Bucks certificates.” Sandi’s been asked to speak to the youth groups at her church on her favorite subject – motivation. Her message, which could be Sandi’s personal motto as well, is simple: “Be yourself. Be confident in who you are.”



Sandi Shaw