



# Scoop

Oct. 18, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### October

**21 History of Medicine Series,** noon, MSB 2.006: Dean Max Buja, "Operating on a Moving Organ: Dilemmas of Surgery of the Heart."

**30 Deadline to register for the American Heart Walk Medical School Team.** Details: 713-500-6803, 713-500-6998.

### November

**5, 8 Flu shots:** 9 a.m. - noon, MSB 2.001. \$5 for employees and students, free for residents, \$15 for others. Details: 713-500-5171.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. John Spudich**, director of the Center for Membrane Biology, recently gave an invited lecture in the symposium on "The Biophysics of Membrane-Bound Transporters," at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden.

**WALK FOR HEART:** The 2002 Houston American Heart Walk will take place at Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. The Health Science Center team with the most sponsors will receive a \$3,000 nonrestricted grant from a heart survivor, who is a patient of Dr. James Willerson's. Heart event, or stroke survivors on the Medical School team will receive a red cap in addition to the walk T-shirt.

In addition to the 5-mile walk, Petco is sponsoring a pet walk -- the pet with the most sponsors receives special prizes.

To join the Medical School team's walk for heart, contact Tiffany Sheffield, 713-500-6803, Valerie Goodwin, 713-500-5032, Peggy Bleichroth, 713-500-6998, or Dubelza Garcia, 713-500-6223.

## LECTURER TO ADDRESS MEDICINE'S SPIRIT/BODY CONNECTION

**Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.**, director of the National Cancer Institute, will be the principal speaker at noon Wed., **Nov. 6**, in MSB 3.001, for the Health and Human Spirit Lecture Series. He will address "The Spiritual Dimension of Medical Practice."



**Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach**

Von Eschenbach, a nationally recognized urologic surgeon who formerly directed the Genitourinary Cancer Center and the Prostate Cancer Research Program at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, also was president-elect of the American Cancer Society.

Von Eschenbach's primary research interest is the treatment of locally advanced prostate cancer. A native of Philadelphia, he received his medical degree from Georgetown University Medical School. He also served as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps.

He also has served as special assistant for external affairs to M. D. Anderson's president and held the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Clinical Research Distinguished Chair in Urologic Oncology. He has contributed more than 200 articles, chapters, and books to scientific literature. He was a

founding member of the National Dialogue on Cancer.

Lunch will be provided for the first 100 attendees.

## MEDICAL SCHOOL PEDIATRICIANS WIN KUDOS IN FT. WORTH

Two pediatricians from the Medical School were among a group honored in Fort Worth during the statewide Texas Pediatric Society Annual Meeting for their participation in the General Pediatric Preceptorship Program. The General Pediatric Preceptorship Program is a mentoring program for medical students designed to encourage more careers in pediatrics.

**Dr. Kim Cheung**, assistant pediatrics professor, works with patients and medical students at the Children's Protective Services Clinic, 2525 Murworth St., and **Dr. Ray Wagner**, assistant pediatrics professor, cares for patients and educates students at Northwest Assistance Ministries Clinic, 15555 Kuykendahl.

Through the statewide General Pediatric Preceptorship Program, medical students are matched with an experienced Texas pediatrician, usually for a four-week period, giving students a first-hand look at what the life of a pediatrician is like.

The Texas Pediatric Society (TPS), headquartered in Austin, administers the program through a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Since undertaking the program in 1995, TPS has enabled 980 Texas medical students to work in the office of a general pediatrician, allowing them to experience the challenges and rewards of practicing primary care and to examine pediatrics as a serious career option.



The University of Texas

Health Science Center at Houston

Medical School

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*Faculty profile*

**MASSEY LEADS WORLD-CLASS CONFERENCE**

The biannual Summer Research Conference in Retinal Neurobiology and Visual Processing has been recognized as the premier scientific event in the field since 1982. **Steve Massey, Ph.D.**, who holds the Elizabeth Morford Chair in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, and is director of basic research, was selected to chair the 2002 Summer Research Conference in Retinal Neurobiology and Visual Processing. The event is sponsored by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Some of the world's best scientists are asked to participate by invitation only.

Fellow faculty members **Drs. Steve Mills, John O'Brien and Louvenia Carter-Dawson**, who also were invited, supplemented Massey's role as chairman. **Wei Li** and **Amy Whitetree**, graduate students, and **Brady Trexler**, post-doctoral fellow from the department, also attended. Li's presentation, "Synaptic Interactions at the Rod Bipolar Terminal," was well received and was preceded by a published article in the May 2002 issue of *The Journal of Comparative Neurology*.

In addition, two adjunct faculty members, **Drs. Ruth Heidelberger and David Marshak**, Dept. of Neurobiology and Anatomy, were invited participants.

Dr. Massey and his team of scientists bring distinction to his department by the quality of their scientific endeavors. Dr. Massey's research interests focus on neuronal circuits in the retina and the structure and function of the retina.



**Dr. Steve Massey**

**MEGAN COLE TO TEACH THE ART OF EMPATHETIC COMMUNICATION**

Join **Megan Cole**, lead actor in WIT, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play about experimental cancer therapy, as she uses techniques and concepts applied in training actors to provide students with new tools and new perspectives on how to achieve empathic communication with patients. Workshops are Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon - 1 p.m., MSB 2.006 and include:



**Megan Cole**

- Tues., **Oct. 22** -- Workshop 1: Developing a capacity to connect to patients and caregivers: performance and discussion
  - Thurs., **Oct. 24** -- Workshop 2: Achieving the inner balance needed to help others
  - Tues., **Nov. 5** -- Workshop 3: Developing the skills of empathic listening
  - Thurs. **Nov. 7** -- Workshop 4: Using the actor's craft to analyze and interpret events in a patient's life
  - Tues., **Nov. 12** -- Workshop 5: Using the actor's craft to fathom a patient's uniqueness
  - Thurs., **Nov. 14** -- Workshop 6: Using the actor's craft to understand status.
  - Tues., **Nov. 19** -- Workshop 7: Examining the medical encounter through short stories and poems
  - Thurs., **Nov. 21** -- Workshop 8: Summing up and taking next steps.
- Blue book credit for attending six sessions.

*Founders Fun Fest - Oct. 11*

**FUN FEST WAS TONS OF FUN!**



*President James Willerson gets into the swing of things with his wife, Nancy, on the dance floor.*

Faculty, staff, and students enjoyed the food, dancing, and festivities of Founder's Fun Fest Oct. 11.

*Photos by Ester Fant*



*Physician Billing Services add some spice with their chili cook-off entry, Chili Chili Bang Bangs. Sequence This! won first place in the contest.*

*Cake marks the Health Science Center's 30th anniversary.*