



Scoop

April 18, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

April

21 Dr. Melissa Moore, Brandeis University, "Interconnections Between Pre-mRNA Splicing and MRNA," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.

May

22 Annual Faculty meeting, noon, MSB 2.006.

June

7 Commencement, 10 a.m., George R. Brown Convention Center.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Yong-Jian Geng, Center for Cardiovascular Biology & Atherosclerosis Research, recently received \$100,000 grant support from Endovasc Ltd., a biotechnology company located in The Woodlands, for his stem cell research in heart failure...Dr. Geng's graduate student **Corina Rosales**, recently was awarded a minority graduate scholarship of \$29,000 from the National Institutes of Health for her research on CD1-restricted T cell response in atherosclerosis...Geng's research fellow, **Dr. Mitra Rajabi**, was presented with the EVEREST Cardiovascular Research Award of \$10,000...And Geng's research fellow, **Dr. Daming Tang**, was awarded a two-year research fellowship, enabling him to pursue the roles of immune cells in the development of atherosclerosis.

FACULTY AFFAIRS DEADLINES

- Faculty Development Leave proposals are due Fri., **April 18**.
- Mentor/Mentee Survey are due Fri., **April 18**.
- Mentoring Award nominations are due Fri., **April 25**.

All are due in the Office of Faculty Affairs, 7.130 MSB. For questions, call **Juanita Sunday**, 713-500-5103 or e-mail <juanita.sunday@uth.tmc.edu>.

REVEILLE APPOINTED DIRECTOR, RHEUMATOLOGY DIVISION



Dr. John Reveille

Dr. John D. Reveille, M.D., has been appointed director, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics.

"Dr. Reveille has served as interim division director for nearly one year; over that interval, he has reorganized the division in a very positive way," **Dr. Frank Arnett**, chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, said.

"He has increased NIH funding and recruited outstanding fellows. The Rheumatology clinical efforts also are thriving with a clinic that sees 8,000 patients per year and provides bone density services, as well as a new infusion center for newer anti-rheumatic therapies. Dr. Reveille has the leadership capabilities to be an outstanding division director, and I enthusiastically support his appointment," he added.

RADIOLOGY MOVES ON TO A DIGITAL IMAGE WORLD

What is PACS? It's the latest buzzword in the Department of Radiology, and it stands for Picture Archiving and Communications System.

This system is accessible via computers and is a database of radiological images, including patients' CTs and MRs, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and standard X-rays. "Under the old system, which was all film-based, films could get damaged or misplaced. This newer system has much easier access," **Bill Shepherd**, manager, information services, UT-Radiology, explained. "It's an entire system of radiological image acquisition devices, soft copy workstations, networks storage systems, and image distribution for 'digital' radiology. This system allows for more efficient use of a radiologist's time. The PACS Web server delivers radiological images to clinicians' and health-care providers' desktop computers."



Bill Shepherd

SYMPOSIUM TO SHED LIGHT ON FLU AND HEART DISEASE LINK

The First Symposium on Influenza and Cardiovascular Disease: Science, Practice, and Policy will be held at the Texas Heart Institute Sat., **April 26**. This symposium has successfully drawn a distinguished group of experts in influenza, virology and epidemiology, atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease, public health policy, and homeland security. In addition to distinguished professors from universities around the world, including **Dr. James T. Willerson** and **Dr. Denton A. Cooley**, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Health and Human Services; National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Department of Defense; U.S. Army; and several industry leaders will share their expert opinions.

Program directors, **Dr. Ward Casscells**, vice president biotechnology, and **Dr. Mohammad Madjid**, Cardiology, initiated this scientific gathering focused on the emerging role of influenza in atherosclerosis and heart attacks based on the pioneer research done at UT-Houston and Texas Heart Institute. Registration (available online) is free for TMC faculty, residents, fellows, students, and staff who register by Thurs., **April 24**. For more information, or to register online, see <www.cardioedge.org>, or contact **Becky Full** at 713-500-6376. This conference is CME accredited for 7 hours of category one.



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DEAN BUJA AWARDS THREE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



Dean Buja congratulates Hays Young as Sally Kim and Diasinou Fioravante look on.

They are: **Sally Kim**, Neurobiology & Anatomy, adviser, **Dr. Neal Waxham**; **Diasinou Fioravante**, Neurobiology & Anatomy, adviser, **Dr. Jack Byrne**; and **Hays Young**, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, adviser, **Dr. Michael Blackburn**.

Congratulations!



Dean Buja with scholarship recipients Hays Young, Sally Kim and Diasinou Fioravante.

AN INFORMATIONAL NIGHT FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS



Dr. Craig Fischer

Dr. Craig Fischer, M.D., M.Ph., a 1992 graduate of the Medical School, provided residency tips and career advice for students interested in surgery careers during a recent specialty seminar.

Dr. Fischer was one of three speakers at an evening UT Clubhouse event in March as part of a spring series of specialty seminars designed to link alumni with students.

The series is coordinated by the Office of Alumni Affairs.

Alumni interested in participating in next year's programs can contact **Jeanie Mullin**, manager of Alumni Affairs, 713-500-5121; <Jean.M.Mullin@uth.tmc.edu>.

ANNOUNCING UT-POP

UT-POP is the acronym for UT-Houston Physician Office Plus, a new program created to meet the medical needs of the UT & UCP family.

Employees can utilize the service to:

- * **Schedule appointments**
- * **Help with billing concerns**
- * **Check the status of lab results**
- * **Receive assistance with managed care questions.**

UT-POP's motto is: "Our goal is to respond to your needs the **same day** you contact us."

The phone number, **713-500-6292**, is exclusively available to UCP and UT-Houston employees.

Or call 1-888-4UT-DOCS (1-888-488-3627), or visit <www.UTdocs.com>.

REGISTRY DRIVE TAKES OFF

The APAMSA (Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association) chapter at the



Jennifer Perez, a phlebotomist, takes platelets from Byron Slaton, MSII.

Medical School sponsored its first Bone Marrow Registry Drive on April 15 in

the Fifth Floor Gallery, as part of a National Marrow Donor Program, <www.marrow.org>.

Only 30 percent of the more than 30,000 patients each year who are diagnosed with leukemia, aplastic anemia, and other life-threatening diseases that require marrow or hemopoietic stem cell transplant can find a match.

Donors, especially minority donors, who are the hardest to match, were encouraged to drop by and submit a blood sample, which was to be typed and placed in a donor database. **Rowena Reyes**, MSI, incoming president, APAMSA, said, "We hope to make this an annual event."

MUSIC HITS A HIGH NOTE FOR CLINICAL THERAPISTS

"Kids learn better with music in their lives. Music lets kids shine." These were the words of Sheryl Crow on a local talk radio show during a recent campaign, Blue for Save the Music, to raise awareness about the importance of music education. But they could have been the words of **Chris Webb**, a music therapist at UT-HCPC, and conference co-organizer for The Southwestern American Music Therapy Conference April 3-5, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The conference included a class for beginners titled "The Use of Mountain Dulcimers in Music Therapy."



Class participant Michael Richardson composes a tune.

Theresa Ford, the instructor, shared with the class a photo of a double dulcimer for courting sweethearts circa the 1850s, used in the Appalachians, "so they could make beautiful music together."

The instructor told the class to "Make your hello song or your goodbye song. If your partner doesn't know the tune, teach them the tune, so you can both play it together. One of you plays the melody and one of you plays backup, and then switch around. This process is called harmonizing." And harmony, at least for these counselors, has therapeutic, as well as musical, overtones.

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Theresa Ford, (standing), instructs the class in finger techniques.