



Scoop

April 25, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

April

28 Dr. Anne Delcour, University of Houston, "Functional Modulation of Bacterial Porins," 11:45 a.m., host, **Dr. John Spudich**, MSB 2.135.

30 Town Hall Meeting with Dean Buja, noon, MSB 2.135.

May

2 Eighth Annual University Classified Staff Workshop, Radisson-Astrodome Hotel.

13 Last Stop: Giving Springs. See how wealth management and charitable giving come together, 10-11:30 a.m., Briar Club, 2603 Timmons Lane at Westheimer. RSVP **Carmella Jones**, 713-500-3279.

16 Children's Miracle Network All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast, 6:30 - 9 a.m., Cafe Hermann, Tickets are \$5. Come see MHCH pediatricians flip pancakes. Benefits Children's Miracle Network.

ADOPT-A-STUDENT EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN RUNS MAY 1 - JUNE 15

This year's Adopt-A-Student Annual Employee Campaign will run from **May 1** through **June 15**. Employees are asked to consider the impact of as little as \$1 per paycheck toward providing financial assistance to a worthy student. Look for your Adopt-A-Student flier in inter-institutional mail during the first week of May.

Thanks to the supporters of last year's Adopt-A-Student Employee Campaign, \$13,000 was raised to provide scholarship funds for one student at each of UT-Houston's six schools. The employees of the Medical School will award a \$2,500 scholarship to the selected student this August at the Adopt-A-Student Reception, where all six students will receive their awards.



At their first community health fair, APAMSA students do blood pressure screenings, immunizations, and blood glucose tests.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IS THEIR GOAL

Recently the UT-Houston chapter of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) gathered to recognize incoming officers: **Rowena Reyes**, president; **Rishi Agrawal**, vice-president; **Jegy Jacob**, secretary; **Anthony Hoang**, treasurer; **Mai Le**, service chair; and **Jed Cheng**, social chair. "This has been a very busy year; APAMSA's mission is to empower medical students, regardless of ethnic background, to address health-related issues affecting communities with East and South Asian immigrants," **Jacqueline Chen**, outgoing APAMSA president, said.

REMINDER - KEEP ON CLEANIN' MED SCHOOL HALLWAYS

The Medical School and JFB corridors need to be free of furnishings, equipment, materials, and items designated for disposal or surplus. Corridor areas need to be in compliance with the State Life Safety Code as per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA # 101). Please pick up and appropriately remove hall equipment that is nonessential. The State Fire Marshall's Office has toured the Medical School and is requiring tables, chairs, chemical safety cabinets, loose paper, coffee pots, and food to be removed from laboratory hallways. Eye wash or emergency shower stations must have ample clearance for access. For questions, call **Claire Brunson** at 713-500-5018, or <Claire.Brunson@uth.tmc.edu>.

BOUTWELL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP HOUSTON BOARD POSITION

Dr. Bryant Boutwell, associate dean for Community Affairs and Professional Education, has been elected to the board of directors of Leadership Houston. Founded in 1981, Leadership Houston is a community leadership development organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the greater Houston area. Each year about 50 Houston leaders are chosen to complete a 10-month learning experience with in-depth exposure to community issues. Graduates form an active network of continued community support. Leadership Houston graduates include prominent members of the White House staff, U.S. House of Representatives, Houston City Council, Texas Legislature, and the media. Boutwell is a 1991 graduate of the program.



Dr. Bryant Boutwell

UTMost Interest

UT-H Health Science Center President **Dr. James T. Willerson** was quoted (*Houston Chronicle*, 4/23/03), regarding articles on tuition revenue bonds and adult stem cells aiding heart patients...**Drs. Richard Smalling, Satyendra Giri, Fernando Boccalandro, Edward Baptista, Andreas Muench, Stefano Sdringola, Nizar Mullani, and K. Lance Gould**, Department of Internal Medicine, presented posters, papers, and oral presentations at a recent annual American College of Cardiology meeting in Chicago.

SAD NOTE - Dr. James Ferrero died April 12. He was a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.



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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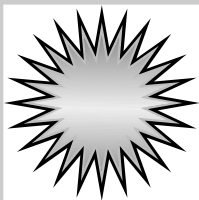


APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - JULIO CHARLES

Julio Charles, senior research assistant in Internal Medicine/Rheumatology, is a born teacher, say his colleagues, and works in a warm and collaborative way with other research assistants.

His superb computer skills also come in handy and help him to see the bigger picture and focus on where changes can be made. He's known to be a master at saving money for his department. One idea implemented saved approximately \$12,000 in one year.

By implementing a bar code labeling and tracking system, he helped compliance with future HIPAA regulations. And with a new project involving a high throughput spectrophotometer and interfacing with a registry database, he will eliminate hours of data entry, and his results will be available to other investigators to make their efforts more efficient and cost effective.



"When I joined the repository, we really did not have the necessary means to handle such volume," Julio said. "I streamlined our repository processes, thereby allowing us to manage a large volume of DNA samples with minimal effort. And at the same time, I was able to slash costs dramatically.

"Why did I get into this field? I am inquisitive by nature. I excelled in science in high school and continued that at the university level and beyond."

Julio comes from Harlingen and grew up around a family-owned restaurant business. He has a St. Bernard named "Bobo," and likes to mountain bike, golf, and play racquetball on his days off. Oh, and he's never been known to turn down a good game of pool.



Julio Charles

CHILD-CARE RESOURCES

On the intranet, visit the Work/Life Program's child-care resources at <http://worklife.uth.tmc.edu/childcare.html>. Many options are listed. For summer camp and other options, click on Initiatives for Children's Family Care Resource and Referral Services. Or call **Sam Hester**, 713-500-3327.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is open to all benefits-eligible employees and their immediate families. (Call 713-500-3327 or visit UT EAP at <http://uteap.org>). EAP offers free, confidential, solutions for you and your family.

STAKING OUT A MIDDLE GROUND FOR CONVENTIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY PRACTITIONERS

What are some of the guidelines that physicians need to consider as their patients increasingly turn to alternative medicine therapies, as well as to conventional medical treatments?

Kathleen M. Boozing, JD, LLM, associate dean, professor of law, and director, Health Law & Policy Program, Seton Hall University School of Law, addressed this question and others at the

"Healthcare Policies and Legal Issues for Patients Who Want to Use Complementary Therapies," April 17, UT M. D. Anderson's Hickey auditorium. Basically, conventional and complementary practitioners have been at war the last 10 years; those in the middle ground camps are seeking dialogue, Boozing said.

The White House Commission last year urged that physicians and CAM (complementary and alternative medicine) providers practice "side-by-side as equals, collaborating both in the diagnosis and treatment of patient conditions."

Boozing advised CAM practitioners to consider carrying malpractice insurance and also advised conventional doctors who venture into specific CAM therapies to be aware of state consumer protection laws based on fair business practices. In Boozing's estimation, positive results from CAM therapy are the result of the placebo effect, but she added, the placebo effect is valid in healing.

Most physicians remain skeptical of collaborating with CAM practitioners. Boozing advised doctors to utilize the patient's informed consent, particularly if there is collaboration with nonphysician CAM practitioners. All physicians are urged to question their patients about alternative care and to be sufficiently knowledgeable about complementary medicine so that contraindications in treatment can be avoided. Physicians also are urged to have their patients bring in their herbal medicines prior to surgery and to counsel patients against prematurely returning to CAM practices, such as yoga after heart surgery.

Texas has an extensive statute concerning integrating holistic-based alternatives with conventional care, which states "the physician may offer the patient complementary and integrative treatment pursuant to a documented treatment plan tailored for the individual needs of the patient by which treatment progress or success can be evaluated with stated objectives such as pain relief and/or improved physical and/or psychosocial function." For more information see www.whccamp.hhs.gov/finalreport.html or www.mdanderson.org/cimer. - C. O'Brien

SIGNS OF SPRING -

Recently UT-Houston medical students and Baylor College medical students teamed up to hold a Residency Fair on the front lawn of the Jesse Jones Library. Under a big-top tent, institutional representatives met with the students to distribute information and materials.

