



# Scoop

April 4, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### April

**10 Registration deadline for Eighth Annual University Classified Staff Workshop, Fri., May 2.** See <[www.uth.tmc.edu/ut\\_general/special\\_interest/committees/ucsc/2003/index.html](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/special_interest/committees/ucsc/2003/index.html)>.

**21 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series, Dr. Melissa Moore, "Interconnections Between Pre-mRNA Splicing and MRNA Metabolism," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.**

## UTMost Interest

**Madelene Ottosen**, the Nurse Manager for the University Clinical Research Center, has been chosen President of the Association of Nurse Managers. This organization is composed of the nurse managers of more than 80 General Clinical Research Centers across the United States.

**COMING UP - Dr. Atul Gawande**, chief surgical resident, Brigham and Women's Hospital, a research fellow at the Harvard School of Public Health and author, *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*, will speak at noon, Mon., **April 14**, in MSB 3.001, on "The Nature of Imperfect Medicine."

**NOTE - Guidedog** is a helpful book, chock full of tips for patients and visitors to navigate around the Texas Medical Center. See <[www.guidedoginfo.com](http://www.guidedoginfo.com)>.



## GOODWIN ENVISIONS A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY BY 2005

UT-Houston laboratory animals are in good hands with **Dr. Bradford Goodwin**, executive director, Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care (CLAMC). This past fall, *Scoop* reported (Nov. 15, 2002 issue), that he and his staff had received continued full accreditation on a recent site visit from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALACI). The AAALACI was particularly impressed with the commitment to rebuild the research animal facilities damaged by Tropical Storm Allison as well as the creative approach Dr. Goodwin and his staff have taken to rebuild their animal supply and find alternative housing for the animals.



**Dr. Bradford Goodwin**

"We envision that by May of 2005 — two years away — we basically will have 70,000 gross square feet to replace the 40,000 net square feet that was lost in Tropical Storm Allison. Design approval should be signed off by next January; construction should start in February 2004 and be completed by May of 2005," Dr. Goodwin said.

Until the new facility is complete, many of the animals have been housed in 22 satellite sites in the Medical School and also at the UT Dental School, the School of Public Health, the Mental Sciences Institute, and at UT M. D. Anderson.

"We actually have more animals now than before the flood; and 95 percent of them are rodents," Dr. Goodwin said. "The good news is that we wouldn't be where we are today without the support of **Dean Max Buja** and **Dr. George Stancel**, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences."

Dr. Stancel is the principal investigator for two \$3M NIH grants — "Extramural Research Facilities Construction. Rebuilding the UTHSCH Laboratory Animal Care Facilities Destroyed by Tropical Storm Allison, Phase I and Phase II."

"Ninety-three percent of all biomedical research studies that use laboratory animals at the Health Science Center are done at the Medical School," Dr. Goodwin said. "Within the past 30 years, because of animal research, we have made significant progress in diseases such as poliomyelitis, smallpox, rubella, whooping cough, typhoid fever, diphtheria, tetanus, and rabies, to name a few. Mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, and other conditions such as leukemia, alcoholism, drug abuse, as well as diabetes, and AIDS, have seen significant inroads in treatment, due to the role that animal models play in our research."

Goodwin said he hopes to have a centralized state-of-the-art facility for the animals, where there are no fluctuating variables in humidity, temperature, feeding, or water. Plans call for the new facility to take up three floors — the eighth floor of the Medical School Building — and two new floors to be built on top of that.

There would be an interstitial space between the seventh and eighth floors that would house mechanical equipment, ensuring ready access to mechanical operations; at the same time, researchers will be able to isolate laboratories from noises and vibrations. (See back page)



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**2005 STATE OF THE ART FACILITY, CONTINUED**

The proposed areas would house a surgical component — which would be a major focus — in the middle of the facility, where the gym is now, as well as a place for large animals, a bio-hazard space, and other facilities for nonhuman primates and for rabbits.

Cage washing functions, necropsy, cremation, and other storage functions would remain in the basement.

“A well planned, well designed, well constructed, and properly maintained facility is an important element of good animal care and use; and it facilitates efficient, economical, and safe operation. We believe that our future new animal facility will house the healthiest lab animals, being given the best care, bar none,” Goodwin said. - C. O'Brien

**BENEFITS ALERT**

Employees with e-mail addresses will receive upcoming benefits information by e-mail only, said **Ed Fullerton**, chief benefits officer. It is vital that your e-mail address is correct in the UT-Houston system. Upcoming e-mail announcements include:

- \* Very important information regarding enhancements to the employee reimbursement spending accounts (Flex Ben)
- \* A HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices for all UT self-funded health plan participants.
- \* Information regarding the upcoming Evidence of Insurability period and Annual Enrollment

Because some information will still come by mail to your home address, please check with your departmental timekeeper to ensure that your e-mail and home addresses are correct.



**CHAIR MASSAGE DAY** – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Thurs., **April 17**, Medical School Fitness Center. Sponsored by the Employee Relations Committee. \$10 for 15 minutes. Appointment, 832-754-8695, or [tymobile@salonzone.com](mailto:tymobile@salonzone.com).

**MAKING ETHICAL CHOICES IN HUMAN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH**

“Exploring Cultural Currents: Domestic and International Issues in Research with Human Subjects” is the challenging concept and title behind the upcoming human medical research conference **April 25 – 26**, at the Warwick Hotel.

**Dr. James Lavery**, a bioethicist at the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health, will be the keynote speaker on April 25, addressing “Why Culture Matters in International Research Ethics.”

“It’s important that researchers and their staffs be sensitive to cultural contexts...This conference is designed to help with that,” said **Paula Knudson**, conference organizer, executive coordinator, UTHSC research support committees. “We specifically will be concerned with research conducted in underdeveloped countries and will have representatives who will aid us in conquering cultural insensitivity.”

For information call 713-500-5189, or visit [http://www.uth.mtc.edu/ut\\_general/research\\_acad\\_aff/orsc/ethics.pdf](http://www.uth.mtc.edu/ut_general/research_acad_aff/orsc/ethics.pdf).

- S. Merville

**EASTER BASKET RAFFLE** - Drawings

will be held at noon on Wed., **April 16** at noon at the Guard Desk on the ground floor of the Medical School. Buy tickets from an Employee Relations Committee member or contact **Isabel Alvarado**, 713-500-6513. Five tickets for \$1. Sponsored by the UT-Houston Medical School’s ERC.

**BILLS SEEK EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR ALLISON RECOVERY AT MEDICAL SCHOOL**

Four bills in the Texas Legislature seek emergency funding for the full recovery of the UT Medical School at Houston and its critical teaching programs nearly two years after Tropical Storm Allison. The June 9, 2001 storm devastated three buildings in the medical school complex. The facilities suffered more than \$156 million in losses and required mitigation against future storm events.

Some \$34.9 million is needed from the Legislature to qualify the university for \$62 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (beyond insurance proceeds). Another \$30 million is needed to reclaim and rebuild lost research laboratories that cannot be restored in the existing Medical School facilities.

Senate Bill 609 was filed last month by **Senators Kyle Janek** and **Rodney Ellis** to authorize issuance of Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs) in the amount of \$34.9 million. **Representatives Beverly Woolley** and **Scott Hochberg** have sponsored a companion bill, House Bill 1941. Senators Janek and Ellis in mid-March filed a second bill, Senate Bill 1420, to authorize issuance of TRBs in the amount of \$30 million. **Rep. John Davis** has filed a companion bill in the House.

- Source: *News on the Go*, Issue 159, March 27, 2003.

**HERMANN HOSPITAL INTERFACE DOORS TO REQUIRE ID BADGES**

“The Hermann Hospital interface doors will be permanently activated Mon., **April 7**, to require a programmed UT ID badge to access Hermann Hospital or reaccess UT MSB,” **Claire Brunson**, director, Management Services, announced.

The doors on the first and second floors are being tested as it’s been found that there still are some technical difficulties in the system.

**Beginning April 7, all UT Medical School employees must have their UT ID badges to access these without assistance. If you do not have your ID badge, you must press the call button to the right of the door and give your name to the guard.**

If your badge is not programmed, you must have your department administrator send **Linda Utterback** an e-mail at [Linda.H.Utterback@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Linda.H.Utterback@uth.tmc.edu) with the badge number and she will have UT Police activate the badge.

If you have lost your badge, or your badge is damaged, you will need to go to UCT 22nd floor, cashiers window, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 pm, pay \$10, and have your badge remade.

“We understand that this is not convenient for anyone, and no one will savor the opportunity to make this trip to UCT. However, in light of UTHSC’s commitment to provide a safer environment to its faculty, staff and students, we hope that you understand that this is in everyone’s best interest,” Brunson said.