



# Scoop

July 11, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### July

- 14 Dr. Shahla Nader**, "Hormone Therapy...What's Right for You?," noon, MSB 2.135. Free lunch to first 100. Open to the public.
- 15 UT System Group Employee Medical Insurance Seminar**, noon, MSB 3.001.
- 15 President's Scholar Awards Nominations due.** See <[www.uth.tmc.edu/academic/pre\\_scholar.htm](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/academic/pre_scholar.htm)>
- 16 Sherry Wilson**, director, Employee Assistance and WorkLife programs, addressing workplace morale and the new leadership initiative, noon, MSB 3.001.

### August

- 13 6:30 p.m., White Coat Ceremony** for approximately 200 entering Medical School students, at the Hornberger. Principal speaker, **Dr. Stanley Lewis**, Internal Medicine.

## UTMost Interest



**Dr. Ambro VanHoof**, assistant professor, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, has been named the new 2003 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences.

## **CALLING ALL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS!**

Do you know a deserving employee who exemplifies confidence and a positive attitude? Do you have a step-up-to-the-plate, don't-pass-the-buck attitude or know someone who does? Then nominate that person for Employee of the Month.

Check out <[www.med.uth.tmc.edu](http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu)>, under Hot Spots, "Nominate Employee of the Month," or call **Sherry Dunn**, 713-500-5505, for more information.

## **INTERIM DEAN SCHULTZ'S MESSAGE TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL**

*"As many of you may already know, I have accepted **President Willerson's** invitation to serve as Interim Dean of the University of Texas Medical School at Houston until a permanent replacement for **Dr. Buja** is named.*



**Interim Dean Stanley Schultz**

*I pledge to do everything possible to justify Dr. Willerson's confidence in me.*

*I have always firmly believed that the inextricable missions of a medical school are the generation and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of mankind and the delivery of health care of the highest quality as it relates to education and research. These missions must be carried out in a manner respectful of human dignity and cultural diversity.*

*Please help me advance these missions during the challenging and exciting times ahead.*

*We are striving to obtain full reaccreditation by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) who will visit us in January, 2004, and we*

*are working diligently to prepare for that visit.*

*Thanks, in part, to President Willerson's efforts, we have obtained the funds needed to commence long awaited restoration of the Medical School and pledge to make the final product better than ever.*

*We await the construction of the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases and the formation of ever stronger bonds between that exciting new undertaking and the Medical School.*

*In addition, we look forward to the construction of a new Mental Sciences Institute, a new Basic Science building and new clinical facilities.*

*While we certainly are confronted by serious problems, I am confident we can overcome them by adopting a positive attitude and working together as a team.*

*Thank you for your support."*



**THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS**  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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## ROSENBERG CHAIR NAMED

**Dani Zander, M.D.**, was recently appointed the Harvey S. Rosenberg Chair



Pictured l to r: Drs. Hunter, Rosenberg, Zander, and Buja.

in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. A luncheon was held on June 25 to recognize her appointment. In attendance were **Max Buja, M.D.**, **Harvey Rosenberg, M.D.** and **Robert Hunter, M.D., Ph.D.**, chairman of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Zander, an internationally known pulmonary pathologist from the University of Florida College of Medicine, where she served as chief of Anatomic Pathology for the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, assumed directorship of Anatomic Pathology, in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, last September (see *Scoop* 9/6/02).

Zander has an actively funded research program in lung pathology, and has published numerous articles on lung transplantation and inflammatory lung diseases.

## PASS IT ON...TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ABOUT E-SCOOP!

To receive a copy of *E-Scoop* every Thursday afternoon, with the latest Medical School weekly headlines and news updates, go to [www.med.tmc.edu](http://www.med.tmc.edu). Click on "Click here to subscribe." At the top right hand corner of the next page, put in your e-mail address next to the "Subscribe" button, and click "Subscribe."

To submit news for *E-Scoop*, send an e-mail to [Colleen.L.Obrien@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Colleen.L.Obrien@uth.tmc.edu) or call 713-500-5112.

## REMINDER TO EMPLOYEES WHO NEED TO ACTIVATE ID BADGES TO WORK

Please don't ask fellow employees to open interface doors between the Medical School and Memorial Hermann Hospital for you. It's against the rules and a terrible inconvenience to those asked.

Instead, send **Linda Utterback** at [Linda.H.Utterback@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Linda.H.Utterback@uth.tmc.edu) your ID badge number located on the back of your badge in the upper left hand corner (not under the bar code). She will have the UTPD program the appropriate access level to your badge.

**BOOKSTORE CLOSED JULY 24 & 25** - The UTHSC Bookstore in the John Freeman Building will be closed Thurs., **July 24** and Fri., **July 25**, for annual inventory. The Bookstore will reopen **July 28**.

## INFLUENZA AS A POTENT AND POSSIBLE BIOTERRORIST WEAPON

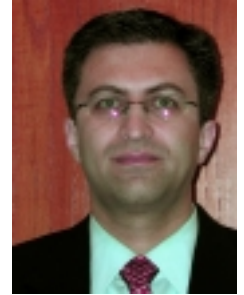
It's been estimated that the flu kills 20,000 people a year in the U.S., according to experts. In an article appearing in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, June 30, and also appearing in BBC Online, **Dr. Mohammed Madjid** and his colleagues - **Drs. Ward Casscells, Scott Lillibridge, and Parsa Mirhaji** - say the number could be over four times that figure because of a link between the flu and fatal heart attacks.

They also warn that once the information from genome sequencing is complete, the new knowledge could be harmfully used to create more virulent strains of influenza, an ideal weapon, warn the team, for biological terrorism.

The team calls for development of task forces, improved immunization efforts, better surveillance systems, federal research programs, better security in laboratories, stockpiling of antiviral drugs, and more work on developing vaccines.

For more information, go to <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3031488.stm> or <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L30144418.htm>.

The study has received extensive media attention and was covered by BBC World Service, BBC Asian network, BBC Radio Five, CBS News, Sky News Radio (London), International Economics (Spain), Houston-based KTRH News, Houston TV Channel 2, ABC Worldwide radio (Australia), Northampton BBC Radio, Houston KUHF Radio, and 60 Minutes on CBS.



Dr. Mohammed Madjid

## AAMC RECOMMENDS BIOTERRORISM EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

In a new report released July 7, "Training Future Physicians About Weapons of Mass Destruction," the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) provided guidance about how to prepare tomorrow's doctors to care for victims of bioterrorism and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

"Physicians are likely to be one of the first responders to a bioterrorist attack, or the first to recognize the use of a bioterrorist agent," said AAMC President **Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.**

"It's imperative that today's medical students, our future physicians, learn everything they can to care for patients who may be the victims of such an act."

The new report is an extension of the AAMC's "First Contact, First Response" initiative, which was developed in the fall of 2001 at the request of **Senator Bill Frist** (R-TN). A copy of the report is available at <http://www.aamc.org/newsroom/bioterrorism>.

**WEST NILE VIRUS** - More than 4,000 Americans last year were reported to have been infected with the West Nile Virus (WNV), with 277 fatalities. Eighty percent of those infected do not develop symptoms, and of those who do, about one in every 150 becomes seriously ill. "I think it's going to become an endemic disease, which we'll learn to manage as we have other communicable infections," said **Dr. Luis Ostrosky-Zeichner**, Division of Infectious Diseases.