



# Scoop

June 13, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### June

**19 Faculty Promotion and Tenure Process**, 9-10:30 a.m., MSB 2.135. Also **July 16**, 5:15:-6:45 p.m., MSB 2.103. Questions, call **Juanita Sunday**, 713-500-5103.

**Dr. Trisha Suppes**, UT-Southwestern, speaking on bipolar II disorder, 11 a.m., MSI auditorium.

**20 Dr. Marc Malkoff**, "Brain Death," noon, MSB 2.135.

## UTMost Interest

**Jun Xie**, a graduate student in **Dr. William Dowhan's** laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received second prize recognition for her oral presentation of her research "Do Phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) and Monoglucosyldiacylglycerol (MG1cDAG) Have a Similar Role in Bacterial Membranes?" at the annual symposium of the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America, Texas Chapter.

**NOTE** - The 78th Texas Legislature has approved bills that will allocate a total \$64.9 million in tuition revenue bonds to repair storm damage and to rebuild or relocate research laboratories and equipment lost in 2001's Tropical Storm Allison.

House Bill 1941 will authorize the UT System Board of Regents to issue \$34.9 million in tuition revenue bonds to help pay for infrastructure repairs. The funds will be used to qualify for a \$62 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), to make up the difference between what insurance and FEMA will pay to restore the Medical School, plus bringing the building up to fire and safety codes.

An additional \$30 million in House Bill 1941 goes for rebuilding about 75,000 gross square feet of lost research laboratories and academic space in different and safer locations. (Source: *News on the Go*, 6/6/03).

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY MARKS 30TH OCCASION

More than 2,000 people filled the George R. Brown Convention Center June 7 as 192 seniors received their medical degrees. **Dean Maximilian Buja** presided over the 30<sup>th</sup> graduation of the School with commencement speaker, **Dr. Robert DuPont**, president, Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. and brother of **Dr. Herbert DuPont**.

"Your patients are your partners in achieving and maintaining their health," DuPont said. "Make the most of both the modern medicines that heal, and the healthy living practices that ensure quality of life. Medical care is increasingly effective as well as increasingly expensive. The dual driving forces of government-run health care and a free market system mold decisions about what is to be paid for in health care. Learn about these issues as they affect your areas of practice."



(l. to r.), President Willerson, Dean Buja, and Dr. DuPont

This year's Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence was presented to graduating senior **Matthew Owen Old**. The student recipient of the Gold-Headed Cane Award was **Hitoshi Christopher Nikaidoh**. The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to **Dr. Norman Christopher** ('85). "This is a huge honor to be



Dr. Christopher

recognized with this award," Christopher said. Christopher was recognized by his peers for addressing tough social issues, including child abuse and neglect, with a commitment to improving outcomes for children, families, and health-care providers. His broad interest in emergency medicine research includes a focus on the areas of post traumatic stress disorder and evaluating the process of care to reduce medical error.

**Dr. Norman Weisbrodt**, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, received the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award. **Dr. Ian Butler**, Neurology, received both the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award and the Benjy F. Brooks Award. **Dr. Frank Arnett**, Internal Medicine, received the John P. McGovern Award. And **Dr. Cheves Smythe**, Internal Medicine, received the Faculty Humanism in Medicine Award. Profiles of these award recipients have been part of an ongoing Celebrating Teaching Excellence series in *Scoop*.

## SCOOP GOING TO WEEKLY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION

In an effort to take full advantage of technology and to produce a more cost-effective product, *Scoop* will be renamed *E-Scoop* with a weekly online-only format effective **July 11** that will bring timely headlines and links to updates about the Medical School directly to your desktop.

At the click of a button, for those wishing to print out the latest copy, with both images and text, a pdf version will still be available at <[www.med.uth.tmc.edu](http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu)>. The last printed *Scoop* will be the issue of **June 27**, and no edition will be published the week of **July 4** due to the holiday.

Watch for instructions to add your e-mail address to our **free** subscription list in the near future to assure you continue to receive timely updates about events and names in the news.

Thank you all for your continuing support of *Scoop/E-Scoop*.



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Celebrating Teaching Excellence**THE BENJY BROOKS, M.D., OUTSTANDING CLINICAL FACULTY AWARD**

**Dr. Ian Butler** has been named the 2003 recipient of the Benjy F. Brooks, M.D. Teaching Award. Established in 1991 by the



**Dr. Ian Butler**

Alumni Association, this award is presented by the alumni of the Medical School to recognize individuals "who complement and enhance the education program by serving as role models for students." **Dr. Benjy Brooks** was the first board-certified woman pediatric surgeon in the United States and joined the Medical School's faculty in 1973. Until her death in 1998, she remained active in the life of the School and a dedicated student mentor.

Dr. Butler is professor and vice-chairman of the Department of Neurology and also holds appointments as professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Neurobiology and Anatomy. In 1993, he was appointed the first holder of the Adriana Blood Chair in Neurology. He is also director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology.

Since joining the UT Medical School faculty in 1976, Dr. Butler

has received the Dean's Teaching Excellence Award numerous times and has long been recognized by students and faculty alike as a physician role model for outstanding student teaching and mentorship. His work with numerous predoctoral candidates continues to shape the future of discovery and leadership within his field.

In 1991, he was elected as a faculty member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honor society. Recognized as one of the best doctors in America every year since 1992, he also was recognized as one of Houston's best doctors in 2002. At the national level, he has served in recent years as president of the Professors of Child Neurology and has held other leadership roles with numerous professional journals and associations in his field.

Dr. Butler received both his medical and bachelor degrees from the University of Adelaide in Australia. He completed a neurology fellowship at the University of Melbourne, Royal Children's Hospital, and a neurology residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Former recipients of the Benjy F. Brooks Teaching Award include: **Drs. Walter M. Kirkendall** (1991); **William S. Fields** (1992); **James T. Willerson** (1994); **Harold T. Pruessner** (1995); **Herbert L. DuPont** (1997); **Larry D. Scott** (1999); **Herbert L. Fred** (1999); **Becky L. McGraw-Wall** (2000); **Terry K. Satterwhite** (2001); and **Cheves M. Smythe** (2002).  
- B. Boutwell

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM INCLUDES JAMP STUDENTS

**Drs. Andrew Harper, Wallace Gleason, and Kim Napoli** welcomed 21 undergraduate pre-med students May 27 to the five-week Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) and JAMP Summer Internship. This year's summer enrichment program (SEP) is the first to include participation from the Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP).

SEP is a medical school familiarization program that includes clinical and classroom experiences, as well as information about preparing for the medical school application and interview process.

JAMP students are guaranteed acceptance to a medical school if they successfully complete all program requirements and maintain a specified academic record. Since this is the first year of JAMP, the first time any JAMP student could arrive on a medical school campus would be in the fall of 2006.

Ten of the JAMP program participants are in this year's SEP. JAMP is a legislatively driven program that provides support for highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students to pursue a medical education.

JAMP also awards undergraduate and medical school scholarships and seeks admission of those students who satisfy both academic and nonacademic requirements to at least one participating medical school. The SEP fulfills one of three summer internships required by JAMP. For more JAMP information, see <[www.utsystem.edu/jamp](http://www.utsystem.edu/jamp)>.



**Joe McDermott and his band jam at Read and Romp 2003.**

## FRIENDS OF REACH OUT AND READ RAISE \$46,700

Kids enjoyed the musical offerings of Joe McDermott and his band at Read and Romp 2003, a benefit for pediatric literacy organized by the Friends of Reach Out and Read-Texas and sponsored by **John P. McGovern, M.D.** The event, which raised \$46,700, took place May 17 at the River Oaks Country Club. ROR-Texas, under the direction of **Susan Cooley, Ph.D.**, Pediatrics, promotes literacy as a standard part of pediatric primary care, by training doctors and nurses on advising parents about the importance of reading aloud, and gives new books to children at each pediatric checkup from the ages of 6 months to 5 years. By building on the relationship between parents and medical providers, ROR-Texas helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success.  
- S. Rasp

**FACULTY NOTICE** - All faculty and department administrative staff are invited to attend a session on the Medical School Faculty Promotion and Tenure Process sponsored by the Office of Faculty Affairs 9-10:30 a.m. Thurs., **June 19**, MSB 2.135 and 5:15-6:45 p.m. Wed., **July 16**, MSB 2.103. Information will be offered on the following: criteria and steps in the promotion process, responsibilities of the faculty member and department chair, FAPTC review process, and curriculum vitae format and content and will conclude with a Q & A. For questions, contact **Juanita Sunday**, Office of Faculty Affairs, 713-500-5103, or <[Juanita.Sunday@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Juanita.Sunday@uth.tmc.edu)>.