



Scoop

May 30, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

May

31 and June 1 The Children's Miracle Network Telethon, Hermann Pavilion Atrium, Volunteers welcome. Contact **Yemike Hatfield**, 713-704-6189.

June

7 Medical School Graduation will be at 10 a.m., in the Assembly Hall at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Speaker: **Robert DuPont, M.D.**, former director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

UTMost Interest

Sona Kashyap, M.D., a fellow in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, is the 2003 recipient of the 2nd Annual Pfizer Scholars in Endocrinology Grant Program, which honors outstanding physicians for important contributions to research and patient care in endocrinology. Kashyap was nominated by **Philip Orlander, M.D.**, Division of Endocrinology.

MS WEB CALENDAR DEBUTS

The new Medical School Web Site Events Calendar is *live* and may be accessed through the home page: <www.med.uth.tmc.edu>.

The Events Calendar is for Medical School events only. To submit an event, click on the calendar, then click on "submit an event." Follow the prompts to enter your user name and password (which is the same name and password used to access your e-mail via the Internet). The Calendar will rely upon submissions by the Medical School community to keep it updated — so please submit those events! If you have any problems or questions about submitting an event, send an e-mail to <ms.webmaster@uth.tmc.edu>.

CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS

Any employee or student interested in helping nurture the leather lounge plants, please contact **Claire Brunson**, director, Management Services, Office of the Associate Dean for Management. Call 713-500-5018.

DR. STEVE ALLEN ASSUMES GREATER ROLE AT MHH

Juanita Romans, CEO of Memorial Hermann Hospital, has announced several organizational changes. **Dr. Steve Allen**, Department of Anesthesiology/Critical Care, will continue to provide his guidance and leadership as the Medical Director, providing medical oversight of the Case Management Department, and he will be instrumental in the development of Memorial Hermann's Patient Care Model. He will also be asked to guide the hospital's vision to become one of the "top 100 cardiovascular hospitals" as well as to be a demonstrated leader in quality, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, service, and customer satisfaction.



Dr. Steve Allen

Greg Harb, COO at Memorial Hermann, will assume responsibility for the operations of the surgical suites and case management. **Erin Aspreco**, director of Business Development at Memorial Hermann, will be responsible for International Affairs, and **Barrie Strickland**, CFO at Memorial Hermann, will be responsible for Research.

SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM HAS BEGUN

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's 2003 Summer Research Program has over 50 undergraduate students and 45 first-year medical students spending 10 weeks this summer conducting laboratory research with faculty mentors. The undergraduates come from Texas and throughout the U.S.

On May 27, the summer research students participated in a daylong orientation program and they were welcomed by **Dean Maximilian Buja**; **Dr. Gilbert Castro**; **Dr. Victoria Knutson**; Assistant Dean for Admissions at GSBS; and **Dr. Gary Rosenfeld**, director of the Summer Research Program.

Part of the program is a weekly seminar series held at noon, which is open to all employees and the Texas Medical Center community. Check *Scoop* and fliers posted around the Medical School for listings of the speakers, subject matter, and locations. For more information, contact **Jimmie Pope**, coordinator, Summer Research Program, 713-500-5334.

DR. DASGUPTA AWARDED CHEMISTRY FELLOWSHIP IN INDIA

Amitava Dasgupta, Ph.D., professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, has been awarded an International Travel Fellowship by the American Association of Clinical Chemistry. This fellowship, sponsored by Becton-Dickinson, consists of a plaque and a \$5,000 travel award. The award provides a well-recognized, widely experienced clinical chemist with the opportunity to promote the profession of clinical chemistry internationally and to raise the quality of clinical chemistry as it is practiced. The recipient of this award is expected to travel to specific countries outside his or her own, to teach, lecture, consult, or provide other assistance to hospitals, laboratories, universities, and other health organizations. Dasgupta will travel to India in July to lecture in Calcutta and in Mangalore at our sister university, the K.S. Hegde Medical Academy.



Dr. Amitava Dasgupta



The University of Texas

Health Science Center at Houston

Medical School

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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



Celebrating Teaching Excellence***DR. FRANK ARNETT
RECEIVES JOHN P.
MCGOVERN AWARD***

The John P. McGovern Award is given annually to the outstanding clinical faculty member as chosen by the senior class. This year's recipient is **Dr. Frank C. Arnett Jr.**, chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology.

This is the second time Arnett has received the award – he was the 2000 recipient. "I'm honored, of course, to be chosen by the students for this award," he said.

Arnett said his teaching philosophy is centered on being a role model and mentoring students. "I like to show students by example how to critically evaluate patients using traditional clinical skills," he said. "At the same time, having good history and physical skills won't help if the students don't have the fundamental knowledge they need to integrate these into a clear picture of what the patient is telling them."

Arnett has been a member of the Medical School faculty since 1984, and his clinical and research interests are in rheumatic diseases. He received his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati and post doctoral training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

This award is made possible by an endowment from the McGovern Foundation. **Dr. McGovern**, founder of the McGovern Allergy Clinic, has maintained a deep interest in excellence in teaching at UT-Houston, where he holds faculty appointments. Winners since 1990 include: **Drs. Eugene Toy** (2002), **Frank C. Arnett Jr.** (2000), **Octavio Pinell** (2001, 1999, 1997, 1995), **Edward Yeomans** (1998), **John F. Donnelly** (1996, 1993, 1990), **James T. Willerson** (1994), **John M. Passmore** (1992), and **Herbert L. DuPont** (1991).

- D. Brown



Dr. Frank C. Arnett

***ZOLDHELYI RECEIVES STUDY SECTION
APPOINTMENT, NEW GRANT SUPPORT***

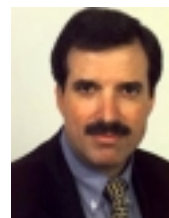
Dr. Pierre Zoldhelyi, Department of Internal Medicine/Division of Cardiology, and director of the Wafic Said Molecular Cardiology and Gene Therapy Research Laboratory at the Texas Heart Institute, has been appointed to the Experimental Cardiovascular Sciences Study Section of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This appointment recognizes Zoldhelyi for his leadership in the field of cardiovascular gene therapy and as an academic leader who is directly shaping the direction of cardiovascular gene therapy research. The field is redefining our understanding of cardiovascular disease with tremendous implications for future treatment and prevention.

In recent years, Zoldhelyi, a medical graduate of the University of Padua in Italy, has published with **Dr. James T. Willerson** and collaborators some of the most cited research in the field of cardiovascular gene therapy. Recently, Zoldhelyi was awarded a four-year, \$1.5 million NIH grant to focus on antithrombotic and antiproliferative gene therapy to investigate a new gene transfer method free of many of the side effects associated with more traditional procedures. This vector, a recombinant adenovirus-associated virus (AAV), will be used to boost the expression of Tissue Factor Pathway Inhibitor (TFPI) and prostacyclin in clogged atherosclerotic arteries and vein grafts.

Every year in the U.S., surgeons and cardiologists perform an estimated combined 800,000 heart bypass surgeries and balloon angioplasty procedures that have to be repeated in about 20 – 30 percent of the patients due to recurrence of obstruction. Although new drug-coated stents can relieve recurrent obstruction, they are costly, limited in use, and their benefit does not extend beyond the vessel's surface covered by the stent.

Zoldhelyi and his colleagues hope the new grant will enable them to use these new gene transfer methods to suppress the development of chronic obstruction and sudden thrombosis of balloon-treated arteries and vein grafts. Zoldhelyi and colleagues anticipate that these methods will allow improved blood flow on a regional basis as compared to treating a single vessel obstruction. "I'm very pleased that the NIH has funded this project as it signals an important vote of confidence in our work to date and in the field of cardiovascular gene therapy in general," Zoldhelyi said.

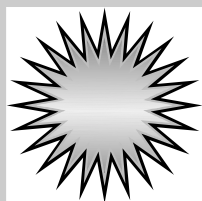
- B. Boutwell



Dr. Pierre Zoldhelyi

MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - SHIRLEY TAPSCOTT

Shirley Tapscott, our May Employee of the Month, is a loyal fan of **Dr. "Red" Duke**. She has worked with him in General Surgery for 23 years. Shirley, a senior staff assistant, has a B. A. in Biology from the University of North Carolina, and upon graduation, expected to work in research. Her first job in fact was in medical genetics. But people, more than test tubes, became her passion. "When I moved to Houston, I took the job working with Dr. Duke, expecting it to be temporary until something opened in genetics, but there is nowhere else or anyone else I would rather work for," Shirley said.



Shirley's other major role model, besides Dr. Duke, has been **Dr. Roger Bulger**, a former Health Science Center president. "I have a great deal of respect for both men, and admire their humanity."

Shirley is especially proud of her work behind-the-scenes, helping many viewers of the televised Texas Health Report that was produced by the Health Science Center and hosted by Dr. Duke, in getting resolution to their medical problems.

Shirley, a native New Yorker from Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island, has a spouse, **Michael**, a daughter **Taylor**, age 11, and a son **Miles**, age 7. On her days off, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, loves to cook, do crafts, and dabble in genealogy.



Shirley Tapscott