



Scoop

Sept. 19, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

September

23 Molecular Strategies to Prevent Disease, symposium in conjunction with new IMM groundbreaking, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., IBT, 2nd floor auditorium. All students, faculty, and staff welcome.

25 The Association of Women Faculty meeting, noon, Fifth Floor gallery. All women faculty welcome.

October

2 Dr. Joan Strassman, 4 p.m., Rice University, addressing cell adhesion in the social amoeba, MSB 3.301.

10 Fun Fest, 2 - 6 p.m., Hornberger Conference Center; see <<http://www.uthouston.edu/funfest>>.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Adelaide Hebert, professor and vice chairwoman, Dermatology, was quoted recently on the subject of the lack of FDA-approved medicine for diaper rash (*Houston Chronicle*, 9-10-03)

PHYSICIAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) is conducting a community health fair, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat., **Nov. 1**, in the Hong Kong City Mall region of Chinatown. "We are looking for physicians to help us by answering patients' medical questions and simply helping us administer flu vaccines and general health screens," said **MS II Jegy Jaco**, secretary, APAMSA. To volunteer, contact Jaco at <Jegy.M.Jacob@uth.tmc.edu>.

Hard Hat Update

DELAYED ACCESS DOORS ARE PART OF NEW SECURITY MEASURES

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety has been involved in the planning and development of environment security at the Medical School. Controlling access to the Medical School's facilities is one key way to enhance security. Delayed egress emergency exit doors and security cameras are being installed on all new exit landing doors -- located between the first and ground floors of the Medical School Building. They are presently operational at stairwell exits F and G, the two most southern stairwells.



Delayed Egress Emergency Exit Door Operation:

In **normal** operating conditions, the stairwell exit doors to the outside are **locked**, closed, and the exiting push-bar armed with a red LED light. During normal conditions, there is to be no exiting of these doors as an alarm will sound.

In the event of an **emergency** stairwell escape situation, **apply pressure** on the bar for 2-3 seconds. A pre-activation warning beep tone will sound. After 15 seconds, the warning beeping tone changes, the exiting push-bar LED light turns **green** and the door lock release allows free exit from the stairwell. During this process, an alarm output in the push-bar is sent to the UT Police Department Dispatch on Knight Road, allowing for continuous monitoring by the UTPD. During such an emergency situation, a gate will be locked into place to divert building occupants to one of two exit doors -- each landing will have two doors.

Security cameras:

Security cameras are in place at the Guard's Desk and also will be added to monitor each stairwell exit landing. The addition of security cameras near the interior stairwell exit doors provides UTPD an extra measure to monitor individuals accessing the emergency exit doors.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION WITH DXA'S OSTEOPOROSIS TESTING

Osteoporosis -- a silent condition in which bones become porous and weak - affects more than 20 million women and 5 million men in this country. Approximately 50 percent of women over the age of 50 have osteoporosis and are at risk for an osteoporosis-related fracture. Nearly 24 percent of women with hip fractures die of medical complications related to the fracture within one year.

DXA (Dual-Energy X-ray absorptiometry), is the most accurate and advanced test available for measuring bone mass with excellent resolution and reproducible precision. UT Rheumatology has a DXA Scan Center in Suite 1100 of the Hermann Professional Building.

All UT physicians are welcome to refer their patients. To schedule a DXA screening, call 713-704-6100, or the DXA Scan Center, 713-704-9832.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND VISITORS

The new pagoda entrance at Webber Plaza is still a construction zone. It is not yet ready for public use. Please continue to use the Webber Plaza entrance close to the guard's desk to enter/exit the building. Stay tuned for an announcement for the soon-to-be opened new entrance.



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HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES WANTED...

Is THIS YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW?



If so, contact Sherry Dunn, 713-500-5505, or <Sherry.P.Dunn@uth.tmc.edu>.

Or go online at <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>, under Hot Spots, "Nominate Employee of the Month."



Dr. Helen Neville

LEARNING AND BRAIN LECTURER HERE OCT. 9

Dr. Helen Neville, associate director, the Institute of Neuroscience, director, Brain Development Lab, and director, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Oregon in Eugene, will be on campus at 4 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 9, to address "Specificity and Plasticity in Human Brain Development," MSB 3.001. The talk is sponsored by the Neuroscience Research Center.

She has provided compelling pieces of evidence for massive experience-driven brain re-organization as well as their consequences on behavior.

Her major research interests are the biological constraints and the role of experience in neurosensory and neurocognitive development in humans. "We study the changes in functional cerebral organization that occur as normally and abnormally developing infants and children attain different ages and behavioral milestones," said the researcher. Her methods include behavioral measures and event-related brain potentials (ERPs), and structural and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

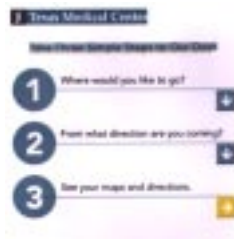
Neville acquired her undergraduate degree in psychology at the University of British Columbia; her master's degree at Simon Fraser University, and her Ph.D. at Cornell University.

MAPS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

Finding your way around the Texas Medical Center from any part of Houston just got a whole lot easier. Go to <http://www.maps.tmc.edu>. Note, you may need to upgrade your browser to view the TMC maps and directions Web site.

You can then access visual maps and written directions that clearly guide you along the simplest route to your destination. Using a point-and-click three-step process, a visitor can obtain custom-tailored directions that can be printed for easy reference on the road.

You also can e-mail the maps and directions to others directly from the site.



HELP HOUSTON-AREA SHELTERS WHEN YOU TRAVEL

Want to get rid of all those hotel toiletries cluttering up your drawer? Donate items like shampoo, shoe caps, soaps, conditioners, toothpastes, toothbrushes, shoe shine kits, and sewing kits. MSB contact, Ana Burdick, x5860, Bookstore, JFB G.753.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

More than 1,000 Medical School employees came out to the annual Employee Appreciation Day, Sept. 1.

The event was sponsored by the Medical School's Employee Relations Committee.

Music was provided by Oldies 107.5 FM, which had a prize wheel that yielded gifts such as key chains, yoyos, free movie passes, magnets, lip balm, t-shirts, and frisbees.



Employees try their luck at winning prizes at Employee Appreciation Day.



Employees try out lunch, featuring hot spuds and cold fixins' like jalapenos, green onions, cheese, sour cream, cookies, and soda.



Isabel Alvarado, president, ERC, looks on as Dr. Max Buja opens a wine decanter, given in appreciation of his support of the ERC.

- photos by C. O'Brien