

Events to Know

September

2 Dean's 2004 Research Scholarship Award Ceremony, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery.

10 Medical School Blood Drive, in honor of Sept. 11 victims. 9 - 3 p.m., Leather Lounge.


15 Employee Appreciation Day, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Webber Plaza.

October

4 Dean's Town Hall Meeting, noon - 1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

6 Faculty Honors Convocation. 4-6 p.m., TMC Edwin Homberger Conference Center.

UTMost Interest

 **Dr. Carolyn Fife**, Anesthesiology, was quoted on the role of maggots in wound care (*Houston Chronicle* 8/21/04).

BRIDGING GRANTS DUE

Requests must be received by **Sept. 15, 2004** for a renewal grant application that has not been funded within the past 9 months by a federal agency and is within the top 35th percentile. Send applications to **Dr. John H. Byrne**, MSB 7.046. Proposals up to \$50,000 for up to one year maintenance can be submitted to the competitive application process. Include a statement letter from the PI's chairperson, a summary statement, the reviewer's comments, and continuing and new research. Also provide the previous summary budget.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR SET



The fair, now in its 17th year, will be held 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Thurs., **Dec. 2**, in the Leather Lounge. Contact **Sherry Dunn**, 713-500-5505, <Sherry.P.Dunn@uth.tmc.edu>, if you are interested in participating with your handmade craft items and if you're interested in having a table. The fair is sponsored by the Medical School Employee Relations Committee.

3T MRI SCANNER READY FOR PATIENTS SEPT. 1

"The big day is finally here. The 3T scanner should be ready for use by **Sept. 1**," according to **Dr. Ponnada Narayana**, professor and director, Magnetic Resonance Research, Department of Radiology.



Dr. Narayana and patient with mock 3 Tesla scanner.

What makes the 3 Tesla scanner so unique is that it's patient-friendly in nature. "We don't want our patients - especially children - to be apprehensive," Narayana said. "So we have a room with a mock scanner. The patient is acclimatized and knows what to expect; it makes everything run more smoothly."

In order to set staff and patients at ease and minimize frustrations all around, contact **Vips Patel**, the chief MRI technologist and the facility manager. He can handle MRI protocols in advance, and schedule the scans. Patel can be reached at 713-500-6915; or e-mail <Vipulkumar.S.Patel@uth.tmc.edu>. You can also contact **Essie Gonzalez**, at 713-500-6916, or e-mail <Esmeralda.O.Gonzalez@uth.tmc.edu>.

"It is important that all your 3T scanning protocols are approved by the Center for Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS). We cannot run your protocol without this approval," Narayana said.

"I also encourage researchers to visit the MRI Suite to familiarize themselves with the mock scanner and the IFIS system for the fMRI studies," Narayana added. IFIS stands for Integrated Functional Imaging System, used in conjunction with MRI programming and data analysis; fMRI stands for functional MRI studies.

The 3 Tesla scanner, weighing in at 6 tons, (see *Scoop*, June 18, 2004) employs a close-cycle refrigeration system that efficiently reuses helium to cool the magnet.

It took cranes, 20-foot-plus stabilizing posts, as well as workmen busting down walls, to move this newest MRI Center addition, into the Medical School. An earlier and heavier scanner, the 7 Tesla, came on board 10 months ago.

A number of NIH-funded Medical School researchers from Radiology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Neurobiology and Anatomy, Psychiatry, and Pediatrics, are interested in the scanner, which is used for human research subjects.

- C. O'Brien

PITT IS JAMES T. WILLERSON, M.D. LECTURER OCT. 5

Dr. Bertram Pitt, professor of medicine, University of Michigan School of Medicine, is the presenter for the **James T. Willerson, M.D. Lecture Series** at noon, Tues., **Oct. 5**, in lecture hall MSB 3.001. Pitt, an internationally known authority on congestive heart failure, will speak on "The Role of Aldosterone Blockade in Cardiovascular Disease." Faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. The Department of Internal Medicine is hosting the event. Previous lecturers include: **Drs. Eugene Braunwald, Attilio Maseri, and Valentin Fuster.**



Dr. Bertram Pitt

Jim Lehrer, who suffered a heart attack in 1985, interviewed Pitt (*Online Newshour*, July 20, 1999), and asked him about the medication, Aldactone. Pitt explained that Aldactone, a drug that blocks aldosterone, in a study he conducted of over 1,600 severe heart failure patients worldwide, had improved the survival rate by 30 percent.

**\$25/month membership fee - 8 months for the price of 12
ONLY 9 DAYS TO GO – SAVE THE
MEDICAL SCHOOL FITNESS
CENTER!**

The cutoff date for the Medical School Fitness Center is Sun., **Sept. 5**. Presently there are 124 members; 176 members need to sign up by Sept. 5 to qualify for the Dean's Office discount of one-third off the membership fee.

Aerobics and yoga classes now are free as part of the Medical School Fitness Center membership drive. Instructors are **Connie Chiappetta** and **Nicole Taylor**.

Chiappetta teaches an open aerobics class noon - 12:45 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with 15 minutes of abdominal workouts.

Taylor teaches yoga on Monday and Wednesday evenings 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Classes are suitable for beginner to advanced students.



Those interested in joining the Fitness Center can attend one free class try out. Drop-ins are \$5 per class.

Experts say that regular exercise can give you more energy, better self-image and self-esteem, a firm, lean body, strong heart, muscle strength, lower blood pressure, fat-burning time, and a reduction in stress levels.

Register for membership at the Fitness Center front desk. Payment can be made by cash, check, or payroll deduction. For information, call the Fitness Center front desk at 713-500-5044.



PEW SCHOLARS NOMINATIONS DUE AUG. 30

The UT Health Science Center is eligible to nominate one candidate for the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences. The program provides \$240,000 support over four years.

Past Medical School recipients are: **Z. Hong Zhou, Ph.D.**, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, **C. S. Raman, Ph.D.**, Department of Biochemistry, **Ambro van Hoof, Ph.D.**, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, and **Valentin Dragoi, Ph.D.**, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy.

The program is open to those with a doctorate in medicine, other health-related professions, or in the biomedical sciences. All nominations will be made on behalf of the candidates by their dean or department chair, or in the case of the IMM, by the director or co-director.

Submit nominations by Mon., **Aug. 30**, to the UTHSC-H Scientific Review Committee at <research@uth.tmc.edu>. Include a letter of nomination, the candidate's cv, and a brief one page summary of his or her research proposal.

Mon., **Aug. 30** is the internal deadline; the external deadline is **Nov. 1**.

For more information, contact **Susan Fernandez**, special assistant to the EVP for Research, <susan.fernandez@uth.tmc.edu>, 713-500-3471.

**REGISTER FOR 10TH ANNUAL RESEARCH
DAY BY SEPT. 15**

The theme of this year's Research Day on Fri., **Nov. 19**, is "New Investigator and Student Research."

This year, the event will showcase the research of more than 150 new faculty and students. It is the only institution-wide event where faculty, staff and students have an opportunity to network with health science center scientists from across the university.

"Diverse and exciting research is conducted daily in the UT Health Science Center at Houston," **Dr. Peter Davies**, executive vice president for research, said.

Registration and abstract information must be submitted online by 5 p.m. **Sept. 15** at <<http://research.uth.tmc.edu/researchforum>>.

More than 140 students selected by individual schools will present posters.

Research Day is coordinated by the Office of Research. Contact **Melissa Proll**, 713-500-3192, or <research@uth.tmc.edu>.

**DIVERSITY IN MEDICINE BLUE BOOK
SERIES ONGOING – FALL 2004**

Six of eight courses remain in a new Diversity Lecture Series developed as a blue book series as an elective learning opportunity for medical students.

Dr. Bryant Boutwell, associate dean for Community Affairs and Professional Education, said, "The series of talks range from understanding our personal biases to caring for patients of different religious beliefs."

The remaining classes are open to medical students and other interested members of the health science center. Talks will be held at noon on select Tuesdays and Thursdays, in MSB 2.006. The rest of the talks are:

- ♦ **Tues. Aug. 31** "Treating GLBT (gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered) Patients"

Dr. Wayne Bockmon

- ♦ **Thurs., Sept. 2** "Treating Elderly Patients"

Dr. Steven J. Levy

- ♦ **Tues., Nov. 9** "Treating Latino Patients"

Darline McCourt, RN

- ♦ **Thurs., Nov. 11** "Treating Homeless Patients"

Dr. David Buck

- ♦ **Tues., Nov. 16** "Treating Patients of Different Religious Beliefs"

Rev. Maria Kennedy

Medical students seeking blue book credit must attend six of the eight talks; lunch will be provided for the first 75 attendees.

The series is sponsored by: Texas Medical Association/American Medical Association, Family Practice Students' Association, Asian-Pacific American Medical Students' Association, and United Latin American Medical Students. Faculty sponsors include **Dr. Richard Castriotta**, Internal Medicine, and **Dr. Linda Neiman**, Family Practice and Community Medicine.

For questions, call **Chirag B. Patel**, 832-620-2701, <Chirag.B.Patel@uth.tmc.edu>.