

Events to Know

January

23 Neurology Grand Rounds, Dr. John Choi, noon, "Melas: A Case Report," MSB 2.135.

30 Neurology Grand Rounds, Dr. Dave Clarke, noon, "Sleep Apnea in Children," MSB 2.135.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Frederick A. Moore, professor and vice chairman, Department of Surgery, was named to the advisory board of Hutchinson Technology Inc. in Hutchinson, Minn...**Drs. Jaime Gateno, John Teichgraeber, and James Xia**, all members of the UT craniofacial team, recently received a U.S. patent (number 6671539) for their invention of equipment and methods to fabricate orthognathic surgical splints and for a related technique for creating a computerized composite skull model for diagnosis and treatment planning. Information on the patent may be found at <<http://www.uspto.gov>>.

The following message is from Dr. Stanley Schultz, interim dean:

"Our LCME site visit has just been completed. While we will not receive official notification until June 2004, we have good reason to believe that we will once again receive full accreditation status.

"I wish to thank all faculty, students, and staff who participated in this undertaking, and who have contributed so effectively to the education and research missions of the Medical School."

CLAY WALKER PROVIDES FUNDS FOR MS RESEARCH

Researchers at the Medical School are starting off the new year with a \$150,000 grant given by country music artist **Clay Walker's** Band Against MS Foundation. Earmarked for research on



(L. to R.), Drs. Wolinsky, Schultz, and Clay Walker

multiple sclerosis (MS), Walker presented the gift to lead researcher **Jerry S. Wolinsky, M.D.**, holder of the Bartels Family Professorship in Neurology, Jan. 15.

"With additional funding and research, there is real hope that we can eliminate MS in the near future," said Walker, who was diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS at the age of 26. "The Band Against MS Foundation and I are excited to lend financial support to further UT's research efforts."

The grant will be used in part to help support the Medical School's research using a 3 Tesla MRI, which assesses nerve-cell damage in patients living with MS, helping to improve diagnosis and treatment.

"The capabilities of the 3 Tesla MRI offer my team a crucial tool that will greatly enhance our ability to treat MS patients and gain a more thorough understanding of the brain and the effects of MS on it," Wolinsky said. "The generous gift from Clay's Band Against MS Foundation will greatly benefit patients in the Houston area and beyond."

- P. Cathion

NYU HEALTH POLICY GRADUATE IS LBJ RESEARCH LIAISON

Sneha Bhavsar recently was hired as a UT research coordinator for Lyndon Baines Johnson Hospital. She joins The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston after working for several nonprofit health organizations and completing a masters degree in health policy and management from New York University. In her new position Bhavsar hopes to promote and facilitate research within LBJ hospital by offering resources and support to UT staff. Recruited by **Dr. Michael Bungo**, associate dean, Harris County Programs, she will serve as the liaison between UT staff and the Harris County Hospital District. Bhavsar can be reached at 713-566-4584.



Sneha Bhavsar

LATEST HEART DISEASE NEWS AT TWO-DAY EVENT FEB. 12, 13

Right around Valentines Day – on **Feb. 12** and **Feb. 13** to be exact – heart disease, and how to prevent it through early detection, will be the topic at The Schull Institute Healthcare Conference. The event will take place at the Reliant Center. **Dr. Elmer Bernstam**, assistant professor, Internal Medicine, will be among the speakers. For further information on the conference agenda, speakers, or to register, visit <<http://www.cardeo.com>>, or call **Debbie Todd**, director, admissions, School of Health Information Sciences, 713-500-3903.

HARRIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS JAN. 23

The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS), the professional association for Harris County physicians, and the Houston Academy of Medicine (HAM) will install new officers at 6:30 p.m., Fri., **Jan. 23**, at the Westin Oaks Hotel. Houston surgeon **Dr. Donald R. Butts** will be installed as the 102nd president of HCMS. Butts is president of the Colon and Rectal Clinic, P.A. and a clinical associate professor in the Department of Surgery at the Medical School. He has numerous staff appointments at hospitals throughout the area.

Board/trustee members to be installed include: **Dr. Michael Bungo**, associate dean, Harris County Programs, and council of hospital chiefs of staff chair, and **Dr. L. Maximilian Buja**, executive vice president of academic affairs, UT Health Science Center, representing Houston's medical schools on the HCMS executive board.

Established in 1903, the HCMS is the largest county medical society in the nation with more than 9,000 physicians and medical student members. Its endeavor is to promote the highest standards of ethical medical practice for the benefit of the community and to serve as an advocate for member physicians and their patients in achieving this end.

DRINKING WATER STUDY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Investigators at the University of Texas- Houston Clinical Research Center (UCRC) are conducting studies of a parasite frequently found in drinking water. They are looking for healthy adult volunteers. If you are between the ages of 18 - 50 and are drug-free, you may qualify to participate in the study. The benefits are: you get a complete medical evaluation; you learn about an important health problem; you contribute to improving drinking water and food safety; and you are paid for your time and effort. For information, call the UCRC at: 713-704-2007 or visit the Web site at: <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/uth_orgs/crc/study.htm>.

DEMO DAY JAN. 24 IS PRACTICE TIME FOR MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS BIKE TOUR CYCLISTS



From a small beginning with 200 cyclists in 1985, to over 10,000 riding last year for the BP MS 150, it's once again countdown time for the annual bike tour from Houston to Austin to raise funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The tour, now in its 20th year, with a UT Team from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and UT Medical Branch Galveston, will take place **April 17 - 18**.

On Sat., **Jan. 24**, 8 a.m. – noon, a Demo Day and Training Kick-Off at the Memorial Park Picnic loop in Houston will have bike store personnel on hand with the latest cycling gear, fitness expert advice, and team captains ready to sign you up. Find out more at <<http://www.uthouston.edu/community/ms150>>.



NEWS BY YOU

Editor's Note: Received a promotion? Have good news to share? Send in your most proud accomplishment to <Colleen.LOBrien@uth.tmc.edu>.

After a 25-year career with the Medical School, **Lian-Sim Loo, Ph.D.**, is in retirement currently doing a two-month tour of Asia visiting old friends and family. During this time, Loo also plans to give a lecture about his collaborative research with **Dr. Stephen Tucker**, Department of Dermatology, on arsenic intoxication as well as the incidence of skin cancer, at a local university in Singapore. After his return to the States, Loo plans to either work with the Peace Corps or the United Nations. He has applied to both and is anticipating positive responses.

MED SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION TO HOST BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT FEB. 14

The Medical School's chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is holding a benefit, "SNMA Brave Heart Golf Tournament," 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sat., **Feb. 14** at the Clear Creek Golf Course, 3902 Fellows Road, Houston.

SNMA is dedicated to the academic and clinical success of medical students and pre-medical students. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships for first- and second-year medical students.

The SNMA also supports the community through its programs: smoking cessation protocol for teenagers; TODER – which educates minority communities about organ and tissue donation; and sexual health awareness – which works to improve relationships, reduce teen pregnancy, and reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Make a difference in the lives of medical students and the communities that they serve and have fun and support a worthy cause by golfing with other golf enthusiasts.

For more information call 713-218-7109, or e-mail <Anthony.m.sutton@uth.tmc.edu>.

Directions to Clear Creek Golf Course from the Texas Medical Center are: Take I-610 east to 288 South toward Freeport/Lake Jackson, exit #38C to Beltway 8 West. Turn left on Beltway 8, stay on feeder, go approximately 1.1 miles and turn right on Fellows (3902 Fellows).

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM SOLICITING SCHOLARS

A workshop on what it takes to become a Fulbright Scholar will take place 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon., **Feb. 16**, at Rice University, Lovett Hall, in the Founder's Room, at Entrance 1 or 2. RSVP by sending an e-mail to Susan Sharp at <ssharp@iie.org>. Directions are available at <<http://www.rice.edu/maps>>. Or contact **Karen Mitchell**, Research Training and Compliance, 713-500-3081. During the workshop, you will explore how to increase the number of Fulbrighters in your area, become informed about the three newer Fulbright programs, learn about ways you can encourage support for the program, discover how you can help faculty shape a competitive application, receive a kit of promotional materials to use in your area, and meet and exchange ideas with others.