



Scoop

July 23, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

July

26 President's Forum, President James T. Willerson to address "Compact with UT System," including issues relevant to the Medical School. Questions following talk, 11:30 a.m., MSB 2.135.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Samuel Kaplan, Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, is an upcoming invited speaker at the 7th International Conference on the Molecular Biology of Hydrogenases, University of Reading, UK...**Dr. Gilbert A. Castro**, vice president for academic affairs, is starting a new, dual role both as vice president for health affairs at The University of Texas at El Paso and as vice president for inter-institutional relations at the Houston campus.

NOTE - Check out the Faculty in the News Web site, which has links to Medical School faculty who are making headlines. The url is http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/facultyinnews.htm.

TMC FOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

The Texas Medical Center Food Drive is touted a success with the UT Health Science Center



more than doubling monetary donations in the form of cash, check or virtual drive amounts — from \$1,260 last year to \$2,789. There was also a slight increase in non-perishable donations as well — 2,058 lbs of food were donated.

TYSON WINS NATIONAL RESEARCH, TEACHING AWARDS

A renowned clinician, educator, and researcher, **Jon E. Tyson, M.D., M.P.H.**, holder of the Michelle Bain Distinguished Professorship in Medicine and Public Health and director of the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine, has been cited twice this spring with national awards for his teaching and research excellence.



Dr. Jon E. Tyson

In the span of a few weeks he traveled across the country — to Chicago and to San Francisco — to accept the two prestigious awards. He received the 2004 Distinguished Educator Award from the Association for Clinical Research Training Program Directors on April 16 and the 2004 Douglas K. Richardson Award for Perinatal and Pediatric Healthcare Research from the Society for Pediatric Research on May 3.

With the national spotlight shining on him, Tyson modestly shies away. "Both of these awards reflect the fact that I am working with people who are more talented than I and who are highly committed to education and research," he said.

"The award from the Association for Clinical Research Training Program Directors particularly reflects the work of a number of people who are members of the center and who helped grow the center, including **Drs. Ginny Moyer, Kathleen Kennedy, Robert Lasky, Donald Molony, Jack Sinclair, Chul Ahn, Trey Miller, Jan Groff, and Carl Phillips** at the School of Public Health," he added. The center now involves 21 faculty members from the Medical School and School of Public Health in a variety of disciplines needed to advance medical outcomes and public health. Kennedy, Tyson, and these faculty members are responsible for the Masters Degree Program in Clinical Research, which now has an enrollment of 30 fellows and faculty.

The Distinguished Educator Award is an annual award bestowed by the Association for Clinical Research Training Program Directors, which is made up of the 59 institutions who are recipients of National Institutes of Health K30 clinical research curriculum grants and whose mission it is to foster the development of clinical investigators in the United States. The criteria for the award include a distinguished career as a clinical investigator, national leadership in clinical research education, outstanding success as a mentor, and documented national leadership in clinical research education programs.

As the director of the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine since its inception in 1998, Tyson has shared his expertise as a researcher and mentored numerous junior faculty and students. In fact, mentoring is part of the center's mission.

The Clinical Research Curriculum, which is part of the center's programs, is funded by a five-year National Institutes of Health grant as a core training program to promote clinical research expertise among clinical investigators at the fellow and junior faculty level. Tyson's mentees have included six faculty members, several fellows, two master's of public health

(Cont'd. on back page)



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TYSON WINS NATIONAL TEACHING, RESEARCH AWARDS, CONT'D.

students, and four doctoral students and have resulted in career development awards for some of the mentees.

“Being a clinician who does research has many advantages — one can recognize the most effective therapies to patients and be in the best position to recognize clinical features of disease or the responses to treatment that will suggest ways to improve outcomes,” Tyson said. “You’re also in a better position to conduct studies to test new applications from the lab to the bedside because you’re in a position to conduct the studies effectively and ensure the enthusiasm of the staff to a level that’s necessary to have a productive test.”

As the primary investigator for six grants each for more than \$800,000 since 1986 and with 32 peer-review publications since 1998, Tyson is undoubtedly a distinguished clinical investigator — reaffirmed by his recent receipt of the Richardson award.

The Richardson Award from the Society for Pediatric Research honors the lifetime achievement of an investigator who has made substantive contributions to improving health-care delivery to the neonatal/pediatric populations. It is named in honor of the late Dr. Douglas K. Richardson’s dedication to pediatric research.

Tyson has committed his research interests to improving the health of high-risk infants. “I started out in this field because I was convinced that if we gave high-risk mothers and babies the care that they needed that we would not only reduce the mortality rate, we would also reduce the likelihood of cerebral palsy and other

neurodevelopmental impairments and increase the survival rates,” he said. “To date, we can say that neonatal intensive care and perinatal intensive care has increased survival rates and reduced impairments. However, we still have more work to do to reduce the risk of impairments,” he added.

Tyson has specialized in neonatal research and is the primary investigator of numerous research grants, including the Neonatal Research Network from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) since 1986.

“Dr. Kennedy and I direct the neonatal network while **Dr. Susan Ramin** and **Dr. Larry Gilstrap** direct the maternal/fetal network,” Tyson explained. “Neonatal death and other adverse outcomes are uncommon enough that you need large studies in many centers to see if new therapies are effective and to ascertain true advances from apparent advances.”

Tyson received his medical degree from Tulane University and joined the UT Medical School faculty in 1998. Among his achievements and honors, he has been active in the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research and the Society for Pediatric Research and received the Founders Award from the Southern Society for Pediatric Research.

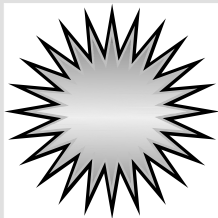
“I am fortunate to work at the UT Health Science Center, which is on the forefront of perinatal and neonatal research. The research staff and nurses, in addition to our great faculty, also deserve a lot of credit,” Tyson said.

- D. Brown

Editor’s Note: The Outstanding Employee Award is presented quarterly to Medical School employees who go beyond what is expected in their job duties. To be eligible, a nominee must be a full-time classified Medical School employee, for a minimum of one year. See <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>>.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - SHERRY DUNN

Sherry Dunn, senior executive assistant, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, is our Employee of the Quarter. Along with the associate dean for community affairs, **Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, she initiated the Outstanding Employee Award Program. This time, it’s Sherry’s turn to be in the spotlight. Sherry, who is retiring next year, will have been with the UT System for 28 years. “I started at the Dental Branch in 1967 and worked there seven years. After working in the banking and home building industries, I came back to the Medical School to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in 1985.”



Dr. Samuel Kaplan interviewed Sherry and hired her as his administrative assistant back in June of 1989. “I believe it was a good match,” Sherry said, with a smile. “I’ve been working for this department 15 years now and have enjoyed every minute. It is just the best group of people you could ever hope to work with.”

Sherry says she had the unique opportunity to help set up the department from the ground up. “There was practically nothing here. I had a table, a chair, and a phone.”

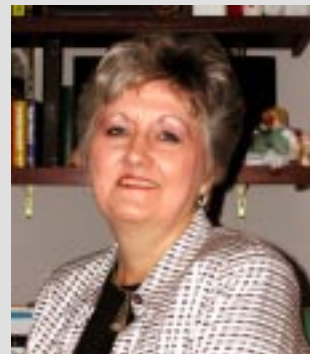
Sherry is particularly proud of helping to create the University Classified Staff Council’s Scholarship Fund, which is going into its fifth year. The fund provides scholarships to qualified children of the classified employees. She also served on the organizing committee that developed the by-laws for the University Classified Staff Council, where she has held positions of vice-chair and chair.

Sherry is originally from Cleburne, Texas, and graduated from Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth. While growing up, she was president of the speech club and was active in her local 4H club. “I won awards with the clothes I designed and for my culinary demonstrations. I like to quilt and sew. My grandmother, mother, and sister quilt. I guess I’ve always liked to do things with my hands — even if I’m watching TV — my hands have to be busy.” Sherry’s specialty is baby quilts and wall hangings and she’s a *Southern Living At Home* consultant as well.

Sherry is married to **Billy**, has a daughter — **Lisa Bailey**, who is a teacher with Spring Independent School District, and a granddaughter — **Kristen Eledge**, who just finished her first year of college at Blinn in Brenham. Her son, **Adam Dunn**, works with **Dr. George Weinstock** in the Human Genome Sequencing Center at Baylor.

Sherry’s future plans include spending more time with her parents, who are both in their 80s and live in Winnsboro, Texas. She and Billy plan to travel and just have as much fun as possible.

Sherry has four sisters — **Donna, Dianne, Sue, and Kim**.



Sherry Dunn

Sherry and Billy plan to travel and just have as much fun as possible.