



Scoop

June 4, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

SCHULTZ NAMED DEAN



Stanley G. Schultz, M.D., an internationally known scientist, educator and administrator, has been named dean of the Medical

School, effective June 1.

Schultz was appointed interim dean one year ago and has been a member of the Medical School's faculty for almost 25 years. "Being dean provides the opportunity of a lifetime," Schultz said. "It is the chance to do what I came here to do many years ago—to help shape this into a great medical school."

James T. Willerson, M.D., president, said that in the past 11 months, Schultz has proven himself as an effective leader during a period of transition and growth at the medical school. "He is an outstanding scientist, leader, visionary and builder," Willerson said. (See back of Scoop for Q/A with Dean Schultz).

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER URGES PATIENTS AS FIRST PRIORITY

Commencement speaker **Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach**, director, National Cancer Institute, told the 192 graduating Medical School students May 30 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, "Yours will be a life of magic and miracles." He urged the graduates to lift their future patients' burdens.

Awards handed out included the Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence to graduating senior **Jesse Smith**. The student recipient of the Leonard Tow 2004 Humanism in Medicine Gold-Headed Cane Award was **Kevin Steele**; honorable mention went to **Jesse Smith** and **Van Wehmeyer**. **Kevin Steele** also received the Hitoshi C. Nikaidoh, M.D. Award for Humanism in Medicine. The Distinguished Alumnus Award went to **Dr. Mark Farnie** ('87); the Alpha Omega Alpha Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award went to **Drs. Jack Alpert** and **Thomas Parr**; the Benjy F. Brooks, M.D., Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award went to **Dr. Francisco Fuentes**; **Dr. Kent Heck** received the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award; **Dr. Philip Orlander** received the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award; **Dr. Octavio Pinell** received the John P. McGovern Award; and **Dr. Virginia Moyer** received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award.

Celebrating Teaching Excellence

DR. OCTAVIO PINELL RECEIVES JOHN P. MCGOVERN AWARD

Octavio Pinell, M.D., professor and director, Undergraduate Education, is this year's recipient of the John P. McGovern Award. Pinell joined the faculty at the Medical School in 1994 and his previous position was professor of Psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine and director, Undergraduate Education in Psychiatry. His achievements span a lifetime and include over 50 awards, mostly in the area of teaching. He now is a five-time recipient of the McGovern Award at the Medical School and two-time recipient, while at Baylor.



Dr. Octavio Pinell

What makes Pinell such an outstanding teacher? In his own words: "Perhaps it's because my specialty is behavioral neurology. In class, for instance, I attempt to activate the students' brains – the rest is up to my students! I try to impart my knowledge, but basically I give them my energy and enthusiasm. And I don't ask my students to pass – I tell them to excel!"

Pinell received his medical degree from the Universidad Nacional de Nicaragua. He did his residency in psychiatry at St. Vincent's Hospital in Harrison, New York, and Spring Grove Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He is affiliated with several professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians.

The award is made possible by an endowment from the McGovern Foundation, after **Dr. John P. McGovern**, founder of the McGovern Allergy Clinic, who has a deep interest in exemplary teaching at UT, where he holds faculty appointments at all schools. Other winners since 1990 include: **Drs. Frank C. Arnett Jr., Eugene Toy, Edward Yeomans, John F. Donnelly, James T. Willerson, John M. Passmore, and Herbert L. DuPont.**

- C. O'Brien

Events to Know

4 2004-2006 Council Position nominations due. Form at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ucsc/elections/election04_19_04.htm>.

9 TOWN HALL MEETING, noon, MSB 3.001. Hosted by **Dean Stanley Schultz**. Anonymous questions can be submitted via e-mail to UCSC chair <Tiffany.I.Sheffield@uth.tmc.edu>. Lunch to the first 100 attendees.

17 Faculty Promotion Seminar, 9 - 10:30 a.m., MSB 2.135. Contact <Juanita.Sunday@uth.tmc.edu>.



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Q/A WITH DR. STANLEY SCHULTZ, NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL DEAN

Editor's Note:

Dr. James T. Willerson announced **Dr. Stanley G. Schultz** as permanent dean of the Medical School June 1 during an employee forum. Scoop sat down with **Dr. Schultz** to find out his plans for the future and to see how things had changed since the last time we chatted (EScoop Aug. 1, 2003).

Q - What is your most immediate priority as dean?

A - The most immediate challenge is seeing our baby – the new research building to replace the John Freeman Building – through its gestational date. We have two National Institutes of Health grants of \$3 million each for the vivarium, one of which is contingent upon completing the vivarium by September 2006. We've got to have a lot of trust, faith, and cooperation from many people, but we should be able to make that deadline.



Touring Medical School reconstruction.

Q - When we spoke about a year ago, you said you had no intention of becoming dean. What changed your mind?

A - The sudden appearance of opportunity – the new building – whetted my appetite. If it weren't for Allison, that no-so-ill wind, we wouldn't be here with a modern Medical School Building under re-construction, featuring a new surgical and clinical skills lab, gross anatomy lab, learning research center, and more. The new research and vivarium building will propel us into the forefront of educational and research capabilities. Being dean is the opportunity of a lifetime – it will help me do what I came here to do many years ago – shape this into a great medical school.

Q - What are your proudest accomplishments as interim dean?

A - My proudest accomplishment was developing, and having approved, a new system for allocating state dollars in the clinical departments to protect teaching time. The relative value unit (RVU) system recognizes teaching in the clinical departments, which has been under pressure, nationally,



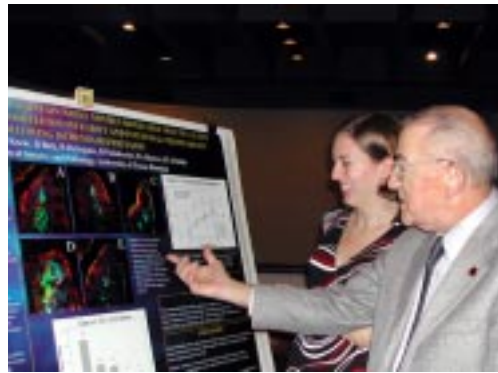
Congratulating a student scholarship winner.

due to the managed care environment. I also took away the 6 percent “dean’s tax,” which in some ways was holding some departments back. I’m also proud of shaping the building renovations to the extent I have been a part of the process, and I acknowledge Dr. Buja and others for their contributions before I came on the scene. I recognize the need for the new research building and am glad we are building the biggest building allowed on that footprint.

Q - In your report in the annual faculty handbook (which can be found on the Medical School homepage), you talk about improving morale as one of your goals. What is your plan to accomplish this?

A - Money must be found for merit increases in salary. But there are also nonmonetary forms of rewards. I’d like to establish for our faculty, staff, and students a beautiful and cheerful work environment. I want people to enjoy coming to work and know that the administration is here, ready to do what it can to increase the well being of our faculty, students, and staff.

Q - You came to this school as a chairman; you have been a distinguished educator and accomplished researcher. Why at this point



Discussing a scientific exhibit at a Research Forum.

in a successful career, when others at this time of their lives may be thinking of leisurely pursuits, would you want to tackle the role of dean?

A - Every one of my family and friends say they’ve never seen me more energized or excited about what I’m doing. I have the opportunity to close my career with a certain excitement as dean, and I enjoy challenges and problem solving and feel that all problems can be solved given good will and proper approaches.

Q - What can we, the students, faculty, and staff, do to help you be a successful dean?

A - I am committed to doing everything in my power to advance our missions of education, research, and service. I simply ask that all of our faculty, students, and staff join me in that endeavor. I am certain that I will make mistakes – to err is human, and I am human – and that I will do things that not everyone agrees with. All I ask is patience and trust that we share common goals.



At the new Leather Lounge Opening with Dr. Michael McKinney.

With this as a basis, together with a commitment to fostering an environment where lively collegial discussions are always welcome, we will assure continued growth and success.