



Scoop

Sept. 10, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

September

10 Medical School Blood Drive, in honor of Sept. 11 victims. 9 a.m.-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.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Corwin Boake, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, spoke on brain injury rehabilitation, at a neuroscience conference in Stratford-upon-Avon.



MEDICAL MEETING SEMINAR

On Wed., **Sept. 15**, meet with representatives from the Medical School CME Office, Graphic Communications Group, Magnolia Hotel, Global Meeting Solutions, City of Houston, and Trevisio. Get your medical meetings this year off to a great start. Trevisio's is providing afternoon refreshments; door prizes to be awarded.

RSVP to <Elaine.M.Allbritton@uth.tmc.edu> or call 713-500-5127.

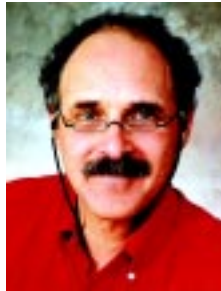
IN MEMORIAM

Debbie Gligor, former director, Development, UT Medical School at Houston, died Sept. 2, 2004. Funeral services were held Sept. 3 at Congregation Emanu El, Houston. Burial services were at Forest Park, The Woodlands Cemetery.



Debbie Gligor

Memorial contributions can be directed to the Debbie Gligor Special Fund, c/o Congregation Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd., Houston, TX 77005.



Dr. Thomas Cole

MED SCHOOL RECEIVES \$3.5M FOR NEW CENTER

Dean **Stanley Schultz** has announced that the **John P. McGovern Foundation** has endowed the Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit, which opened Sept. 1, with \$3.5 million. This is one of the largest, single gifts in the Medical School's history.

By endowing the center, the McGovern Foundation will ensure that a commitment to the teaching of the art of medicine will continue.

A detailed description of the center and a Q/A with its director, **Dr. Thomas R. Cole**, will appear in next week's *Scoop*.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN NEUROSURGERY & OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Two department chairs in the Medical School have stepped down from their roles as chairs to return full time to academic, research, and clinical interests.

Dr. Guy Clifton, chair of the Department of Neurosurgery since its inception in 1991, stepped down as chair, effective Sept. 1. **Dean Stanley Schultz** has appointed **Dr. Dennis Vollmer**, professor in the department, as chair. Clifton will remain on the faculty, actively pursuing his clinical and research efforts.

Dr. Michael Poole, who has served as chair of the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery since 2000, stepped down from the position Sept. 1. He will remain on the faculty in the department, pursuing educational, research, and clinical interests. Dean Schultz has appointed **Dr. Joseph Chang** acting chair.

"I want to express my gratitude to Drs. Clifton and Poole for their contributions to the school, and welcome Drs. Vollmer and Chang to these leadership positions," Dean Schultz said.



Dr. Vollmer



Dr. Chang

CASTRIOTTA IS NEW DIVISION DIRECTOR

Dr. Richard Castriotta, Internal Medicine, has accepted the position of director of the division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine. **Dr. Akhil Bidani** is the former director and will devote more attention to research and bioengineering program development. "Please join me in expressing appreciation for Dr. Bidani's leadership of the division and his contributions to the department," **Dr. Bruce Kone**, chair, Internal Medicine, said.



Dr. Castriotta

Castriotta is the director of the Memorial Hermann Hospital Sleep Disorders Center. "We evaluate sleep disorders of all ages," Castriotta said. He is a well-known researcher in pediatric sleep disordered breathing. He personally reviews all pediatric sleep studies and recommends management plans to the rest of the team. He participates in all research by the team and provides valuable insight into the complexities of interpretation of sleep studies in children. Said Kone, "Dr. Castriotta is a strong clinician, educator, and investigator. I am confident he will lead the division to greater achievement in education, patient care, and discovery."



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A part of The University of Texas
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HOUSTON BAPTIST U. SENIOR INTERNS IN MURAD'S LAB

In recent years, embryonic stem cells have been in the scientific spotlight, surrounded by a web of unanswered questions about their biology and future uses. For 10 weeks in June, as part of the Summer Research Program at the Medical School, **Silky Singh**, a Houston Baptist University senior, who aspires to come to the Medical School as a student, worked with **Dr. Joshua Krumenacker**, in **Dr. Ferid Murad's** lab, studying embryonic stem cells from mice. Throughout the whole research program, Singh related, Dr. Murad was really encouraging and inquisitive about her progress and what she was learning.

"I'm going to do the poster competition in November, and I'm both excited and nervous," Singh said.

Her research, the young scientist explained, entails studying the role of nitric oxide in the early stages of heart development.

"We see these cardiomyocytes beating in petri dishes. It's similar to a regenerative process. We're looking forward to the day when the mysteries we're uncovering can be applied to human patients and used for therapeutic purposes. This kind of research, we hope, will eliminate or greatly reduce the need for various heart procedures."



Silky Singh

NIH SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

The National Institutes of Health is now accepting applications for its five Loan Repayment Programs: Clinical Research LRP; Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds LRP; Contraception and Infertility Research LRP; Health Disparities LRP; and Pediatric Research LRP.

Qualified health professionals who are accepted into the programs may receive up to \$35,000 toward their educational debt, as well as coverage for federal and state tax liabilities.

Program participants must possess a doctoral-level degree, devote 50 percent or more of their time to research funded by a non-profit organization or government entity (federal, state, or local), and possess educational loan debt equal to or exceeding 20 percent of their institutional base salary. U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or U.S. nationals may apply.

Applications must be received by **Dec. 15**.

For more information, go to <<http://www.lrp.nih.gov>>.

(Source: AAMC STAT, Sept. 6, 2004)

THIS HOLIDAY SHOPPING WILL BENEFIT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Put Barnes & Noble purchases, West Holcombe at Buffalo Speedway, **Dec. 1- Dec. 4**, on your holiday shopping list. Once again, student scholarship dollars for all six schools will be raised through a partnership between the university and Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 3003 West Holcombe at Buffalo Speedway.

The UT Health Science Center at Houston Scholarship Holiday BookFair is in its second year.

Purchases of books -- including technical -- CDs, calendars, games, DVDs, and other items during these four days will result in financial aid for students with the greatest needs.

Sales in excess of \$10,000 mean there will be a 25 percent donation to the health science center from Barnes & Noble.

Those who shop at the store need to identify themselves as supporting the drive and can designate the school to benefit. For more information, contact **Elease Jenkins**, Office of Public Affairs, <Elease.P.Jenkins@uth.tmc.edu>, 713- 500-3035.



DOCTORS ORCHESTRA OF HOUSTON IS ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS

Doctors Orchestra of Houston is accepting new members in September. Regular rehearsals are Wednesday nights, 7 - 9:30 p.m., Texas Heart Institute, B level auditorium.

For more information, call 713-661-4422, or see <<http://www.DoctorsOrchestraHouston.org>>.

The first concert, "From Russia with Love," Sat., **Nov. 13**, will feature piano virtuoso Roberto Morales, in the Tchaikovsky piano concert. Also on the program is the Rimsky-Korsakov "Scheherazade" and "The Wedding March" by Rubenstein.

GSBS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS & MENTORS GATHER FOR AWARDS

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences students and their mentors gathered Sept. 2 for awards of \$2,500 and presentations during the Dean's 2004 Research Scholarship Ceremony.

Mentors and student winners pose in the photo to the right: (l. to r.), **Dr. Henry W. Strobel**, **Bao T. Nguyen**, **Dr. Carmen Dessauer**, **Auinash Kalsotra**, **Sonja Blum**, **Dr. Pramod Dash**, **April Hebert**, **Amy Trott**, **Dr. Nachum Dafny**, **Pamela Yang**, **Dr. Kevin Morano** and **Dr. Alan Swann**. (See related *Scoop* article July 30).

