



# Scoop

April 15, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### April

#### 15-16 Alumni Reunion Weekend.

Visit <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/alumni/index.htm>>.

### May

#### 19 ANNUAL FACULTY MEETING, 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., MSB 2.006.

## UTMost Interest

**Ron Evans**, Internal Medicine, recently presented "Professional Employer Organizations: How Small to Medium Size Groups Can Save Money and Expand Benefits," at a Medical Group Management Association conference in Washington, D.C.



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## FINANCIAL AID LENDER FAIR

The first health science center and M.D. Anderson School of Health Sciences Financial Aid Lender Fair will be held 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Wed. **April 20**, 6767 Bertner, Mitchell Building (Basic Sciences Research Building), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Onstead Auditorium.

Students will have an opportunity to meet student loan lenders and learn more about the products they offer.

Lunch will be provided for the first 150 guests, and door prizes will be drawn every hour.

For additional information, please contact **Araceli Alvarez**, 713-500-3868.

## IN THE NEWS



**Dean Stanley Schultz**, **Bohn D. Allen**, M.D., president, Texas Medical Association, **Dr. Max Buja**, and a number of others from TMA and the Harris County Medical Society recently gathered to discuss legislative priorities and common interests related to academic medicine.

## A NEW BUILDING DAWNS FOR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Fifth Floor Gallery was filled to capacity April 12 as wellwishers took part in an historic occasion for the Medical School – the groundbreaking celebration of the Replacement Research Facility. The \$80M, six-story building is being constructed on the former site of the John Freeman Building, which was "the first and only building during the Medical School's infancy, some 33 years ago," said **Dean Stanley Schultz**.



(L. to R.) **Dr. Peter Davies**, **John McFate**, **Dean Stanley Schultz**, **Dr. Judianne Kellaway**, and **Brad Howell** take up their shovels to symbolically "break ground" for the new building.

that hold great promise for the understanding and alleviation of human disease.

"April 12, 2005 marks an auspicious date in our history as we move forward with our Medical School expansion," said Schultz. "April 12, 1955, 50 years ago was an auspicious date in medical history when the Salk vaccine was approved as safe and effective. There are many more polios to conquer. It is our fervent hope that HIV/AIDS, SARS, and other infectious pathogens will also become history as a result of the efforts of dedicated scientists in this new building."

## TEICHGRAEBER ACCEPTS HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

**John F. Teichgraeber, M.D.**, professor in the divisions of pediatric surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery, recently received a House of Charity Humanitarian of the Year Award for 2005. Teichgraeber, co-director of the Texas Cleft and Craniofacial Team, was given the award during the annual House of Charity's "Angels on Earth" celebration, attended by 700 patrons, at Milan Pavilion in Houston. "As a surgeon," Teichgraeber said, "I play only a small role in outreach programs, which organizations like the House of Charity fund. The real heroes in these endeavors are people like founder and executive director **Hashmat Effendi**. Without her, these children would otherwise have no access to the specialized treatments we offer."



**Dr. John Teichgraeber (r.)** and **Tom Flood**, Fox 26 News.

The Houston-based organization recognized Teichgraeber for his dedication and selfless contributions. Teichgraeber serves as an adviser to the House of Charity. Said Effendi, "We are proud of you, Dr. Teichgraeber, and hope that every patron could be like you – caring, kind, dedicated, and committed!"



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

A part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

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**GOT QUESTIONS? YOUR'E INVITED! Come to a Procurement Town Hall Meeting, 9 - 11 a.m., Tues., April 19, MSB 3.001**

## YOU CAN GET MORE THAN COKES & CHIPS IN A VENDING MACHINE

Last fall, the Research Committee assigned three faculty members – **Dr. William Dowhan**, **Dr. Agnes Puskas**, and **Dr. Kevin Morano** – to work with the Procurement Department to provide an on-site stock room in the Medical School. The concept was to provide a centralized, secure location to maintain frozen, refrigerated, and dry-good supplies that would provide 24 hour by 7 days a week access to faculty and staff. A system was then developed to interface with PeopleSoft in a way that would minimize paperwork, maximize product availability, manage total cost, and assure suppliers of prompt payment.

Opening between June and July, the Procurement Department will offer an on-site, 24-hour, 7-day access stock room in the Medical School's basement. Employees will be able to access the mall by taking the green elevator to the basement and turning left. The mall will be located right next door to Shipping & Receiving.

The UT Supply Mall will be accessed with an employee's ID badge. The employee will log into the system using a two-step process with a user ID and a fingerprint of a bio-ID. "It's practically like shopping at a grocery store," **Danny Rawson**, Procurement Services, said.

The individual will select the item that he or she wants, the door will open, and a light will flash. The person will remove the item, press a "take" button, and the screen will record all of the items taken. Finally an e-mail receipt of the transactions will be sent to the person's designated administrative support person for monthly account reconciliation purposes. On a daily basis, Procurement will download the information into PeopleSoft and create vouchers to pay the suppliers for the items that have been taken. Procurement will work with department administrators to resolve any budget issues.

The following suppliers will maintain products in the UT Supply Mall: **Fisher Scientific**, **Sigma Aldrich**, **VWR Scientific International**, **Invitrogen**, **New England Bio-Labs**, **Expotech USA, Inc.**, **Applied Biosystems**, **ISC BioExpress**, **Tejas Office Products**, **Qiagen**, **GE Healthcare (Amersham)**, and **Bio Rad**.

Procurement Services will be distributing Security Access Forms to all faculty who, in turn, will need to have the forms completed and approved by their respective DMOs, in order to purchase goods from the UT Supply Mall.

"We are very excited about this initiative; it offers many advantages to our faculty, lab personnel, administrative personnel, Procurement and our key suppliers," Rawson said. For questions, call Rawson at 713-500-4756, or **Vu Nguyen**, 713-500-8132.



The UT Supply Mall will be a larger facsimile of the above vending machine look, at Baylor College of Medicine.



## WILLERSON HONORED

**James T. Willerson, M.D.**, president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, received from the American Heart Association (AHA) its highest honor for volunteers who have provided continued, distinguished service, the Gold Heart Award.

The association previously honored Willerson with its Award of Meritorious Achievement, the James B. Herrick Award, and its Distinguished Scientist Award, which recognized his "extraordinary contributions to cardiovascular and stroke research."

From 1993 to 2004, Willerson was editor-in-chief of *Circulation*, the AHA's largest scientific journal.

Called "a preeminent global leader in cardiovascular medicine," Willerson now is leading, along with **Emerson Perin, M.D.**, of the Texas Heart Institute, one of the first FDA-approved trials using bone marrow-derived stem cells to treat heart disease, at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, where he also is president-elect.

## CONNECTING COMPREHENSION TO FRONTAL LOBE FUNCTIONS

Six-year-old Nacho, a Chinese macaque monkey, was busy playing a very simple game of shape or location matching, and being rewarded with a sip of apple juice every time he accurately chose the correct match with his eye movements. "This is similar to another test we use, called the Stroop Effect," said **Anne Sereno, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Neurobiology & Anatomy. Added her assistant, **Nassim Seyedali**, "Our monkeys are faster than I am at this."

Sereno, who has been on campus since 1999, is very interested in the higher cognitive function of our frontal lobes, and also what happens when they are damaged or dysfunctional. Time-lapsed tests can measure information processing performance. The tests are particularly useful in studying mental abilities or disabilities.

Sereno has co-authored numerous articles on saccadic eye movements in relation to frontal lobe functions and their interactions with human dysfunctions, including schizophrenia, stroke, Parkinson's disease, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

She often administers a few simple tests to show how frontal lobe function works. "In one test, for example, you're just reading words and, in the second test, you're just naming ink colors," she said. "The frontal lobe function kicks in when a participant is asked to name the ink color when it conflicts with the word (e.g., when the word blue is written in red ink). Reading is so automatic, indicated the researcher, that it's very difficult to focus on the simple task of naming the ink color.

"I've tested both adults and children," Sereno said. "It's sometimes quite shocking for adults to realize that a five-year-old can name the ink colors much faster than they themselves can."

To try out the test, go to <<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/words.html>>. Click on "Interactive Stroop Effect Experiment."



Dr. Sereno engages a child in the Stroop Effect test at the McGovern Museum.