



Scoop

Aug. 5, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

August

- 10 New Student Orientation**
- 10 Clinical Research Billing Program Training.** 11:30 a.m. MSBB.610. To sign up (and reserve lunch), call 713-500-3524.
- 12 New Student Retreat** Camp Allen
- 16 Clinical Research Billing Program Training.** 11:30 a.m. MSBB.610. To sign up (and reserve lunch), call 713-500-3524.
- 30 Clinical Research Billing Program Training.** 11:30 a.m. MSB B.610. To sign up (and reserve lunch), call 713-500-3524.

September

- 5 Labor Day Holiday**
- 9 Blood Drive to Honor Victims of Sept. 11.** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Medical School Leather Lounge.
- 13 Deadline to register for Baylor's Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology Course.** Course runs Sept. 20-Nov. 15. The cost on or before Sept. 13 is \$125. Details: <http://www.hcoa.org/medterm>
- 14 Deadline for hotel registration for Conference on Innovations in Medical Education: Physician Competencies and Professionalism.** Conference to be held Oct. 6-7 in Austin. Details: www.utsystem.edu/hea/symposiumoct2005
- 21 Faculty Honors Convocation** 5 p.m. Hornberger Convention Center.
- 26 13th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic** 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Timber Creek Golf Club, Friendswood.

TWO MEDICAL SCHOOL PROFESSORS WIN PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Two Medical School professors will be honored with President's Awards at the annual Honors Convocation 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

Dr. Frank Arnett, Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology and professor of internal medicine and pathology and laboratory medicine, will receive the President's Scholar Award for Teaching. Arnett received the award for achievements in educating students, residents, and fellows, mentoring others, and service to national scholarly organizations, including serving as past president of Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society.

Dr. William Dowhan, holder of the John S. Dunn, Sr., Chair in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, will receive the President's Scholar Award for Research. Dowhan was singled out for his contributions to research, particularly his work on the role of lipid-protein interactions in the structure and function of membranes and the national and international attention his work has garnered, including his recent receipt of the Avanti Award.

"I am very proud that the Medical School is home to both of the President Scholars this

(Cont'd. on back)



Dr. Arnett



Dr. Dowhan

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNEY FEATURES HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE

The 13th Annual UT Health Science Center Scholarship Golf Classic will tee off at 9 a.m. Monday, Sept. 26 at Timber Creek Golf Club in Friendswood. And anyone who makes a hole in one on one of the two prize holes will drive away in a special prize – a new Mercedes.

Dr. Richard Andrassy, chair of the Department of Surgery, is chair of the annual fund-raising event, which is a four-person golf scramble. Co-chair is **Dr. David Mercer**, Surgery; honorary chair is **Dr. James "Red" Duke**, Surgery; and celebrity chair is **Lisa Foronda**, KHOU-TV News anchor.

"The golf tournament is a great way for friends of the health science center to come together to support the worthy cause of student scholarships," Andrassy said. "We are truly grateful for all of our sponsors, especially Alex Rodriguez Mercedes-Benz."

Alex Rodriguez Mercedes-Benz is donating a C230WZ to anyone who makes a hole-in-one on either of the prize holes, and the dealership also will provide two free weekend drives in one of their SLKs for select par 3s.

Participation levels vary from \$150 "Friend" to "Platinum Sponsor" at \$10,000, which includes two foursomes. Registration for the event is due Sept. 5 and may be downloaded at www.uthouston.edu/community/golf/index.html.



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

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STUDY: CIRCULATING STEM CELLS PLAY ROLE IN REPAIRING LUNG DAMAGE

Circulating stem cells play a minor role in repairing lung damage, according to a team of scientists who used male and female chromosomal differences to analyze the repair process in lung transplant patients.

Reporting in the July 27 edition of the journal *Transplantation*, lead author **Dani Zander, M.D.**, professor and vice chair, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and colleagues at the University of Florida College of Medicine found that less than 1 percent of a certain type of reparative lung stem cell originated in the bone marrow of the transplant recipient.

“It’s possible in the future that circulating stem cells could be augmented to play a greater role in lung repair – and people are looking at ways to do that. We found that the bulk of stem cell contribution to the repair process belongs to those stem cells normally found in the lungs rather than to circulating stem cells,” said Zander, holder of the Harvey S. Rosenberg, M.D., Chair in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Stem cells are produced during adulthood in the bone marrow, where some remain while others circulate in the blood stream. Their main function is to produce all of the elements of blood. Some studies



Dr. Dani Zander

show that circulating stem cells are capable of differentiating into other types of tissue, including lung tissue, Zander said, and this study provides evidence of differentiation.

Researchers examined lung biopsy specimens from seven male transplant recipients who had received lungs from female donors. They analyzed the origins of type II pneumocytes, a stem cell involved in the complex processes of lung repair, found in the lung tissue. Donor lungs come with their own type II pneumocytes, which in this case have two X chromosomes. Cells produced by the recipient’s bone marrow have an X and a Y (male) chromosome.

Lung transplant recipients are vulnerable to pulmonary injury from infections, rejection of the transplanted lung, ischemia, and other factors that damage the alveoli – tiny hollow sacs along the airways where the blood takes in oxygen and discards carbon dioxide.

The processes by which alveoli recover from damage are complex and incompletely understood, Zander said. Previous research showed that type II pneumocytes in the lungs are known to play a central role, but the role of the bone marrow-derived version of the cells is less clear.

“The lung has received relatively little investigation in this area,” Zander said. “It’s a challenging organ to study because the air-tissue interfaces make it difficult to separate different cell types.”

-S. Merville

DEADLINE NEARS FOR NEW INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT COURSES

The Office of Research is offering a New Investigator Development Program to help junior faculty members develop competitive grant applications. The program is led by a Faculty Steering Team and includes the following seminar and workshop.

- Grants 101 – A seminar for two half days, Thursday, Sept. 8, and Friday, Sept. 9, 8 a.m.-noon., MSB B.100, which provides participants an overview of administrative policies/procedures for submitting/managing research grants. This session is open to all health science center faculty, staff, and trainees.
- Grants 102 – An eight-month workshop where participants develop a grant application that is peer reviewed and ready to submit for external funding at the close of the workshop.

Friday, Sept. 2 is the deadline to register online for Grants 101 or apply for Grants 102. See <http://research.uth.tmc.edu/nidp/> for an overview of the program, schedule of topics/speakers, and application guidelines for Grants 102.

Contact: Rena.N.DSouza@uth.tmc.edu, 713-500-4218, or Sara.C.Farese@uth.tmc.edu, 713-500-3076.

President’s Awards, cont’d.

year,” said **Dean Stanley Schultz**. “This is a testament to the dedication of these two fine professors and all of their outstanding academic achievements.”

These awards are the highest faculty award given by the health science center and carry a \$5,000 prize. Other award-winning faculty will be recognized at the Honors Convocation, and all faculty will receive a formal invitation to the event.

Workshop to focus on evidence-based health care teaching

Virginia Moyer, M.D., M.P.H., Pediatrics, will be a co-course director of a workshop to teach others how to effectively teach evidence-based health care Sept. 16-18 at M. D. Anderson. “Learning to Practice and Teach Evidence-based Health Care: an Intensive Workshop” is aimed at faculty members, fellows, and residents who want to improve their skills in this area.

The conference will include plenary sessions and focus on small group, hands-on learning led by experienced faculty.

UT Faculty teaching at this workshop include, **Lisa Hollier, M.D., Ph.D.**, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences; **Kathleen A. Kennedy, M.D.**, Pediatrics; **Donald A. Molony, M.D.**, Internal Medicine; **Alberto Puig, M.D., Ph.D.**, Internal Medicine; **Lee Ann Riesenberg, Ph.D.**, assistant dean for educational programs; **John Ribble, M.D.**, director of curriculum; and **William Risser, M.D., Ph.D.**, Pediatrics.

After attending the workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe the rules of evidence used to critically evaluate the clinical research literature;
- Demonstrate competence in applying the rules of evidence to published studies;
- Describe techniques for teaching the skills of EBHC in the clinical setting.

This workshop has been approved for AMA PRA credit. Registration is \$375 for M.D., D.O., DDS and other faculty, \$325 for M. D. Anderson and UT faculty; and \$275 for fellows and residents. To register, or for more information, go to:

www.mdanderson.org/conferences