



Scoop

March 11, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

15 Lecturer Dax Cowart's talk, "Who Should Decide?" will address the issue of paternalism and mentally competent adults, noon, MSB 1.006. Lunch to first 100 attendees. Sponsored by The John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit.

17 Match Day, 10:30 a.m. Webber Plaza. Rain location: Fifth Floor Gallery.

23 Easter Basket Raffle, drawing at noon, Guard's Desk, MSB ground floor. See your ERC member for tickets, 5 tickets for \$1.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Ferid Murad gave a plenary lecture in Carmel, Calif., and presented "Nitric Oxide and Cyclic GMP in Cellular Signaling and Drug Development," in Nashville, Tenn...

Dr. Pedro Ruiz, vice chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, was recently elected president of the American Psychiatric Association with 73 percent of the vote. Ruiz will start his one-year tenure as president-elect in May 2005 and his one year tenure as president in May 2006...**Dr. Bill Peruzzi** is the new chief medical officer for Memorial Hermann Hospital and Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital, effective **March 14**. Previously he was professor of anesthesiology, chief of the Critical Care Medicine Section, and director of the Anesthesiology Critical Care Fellowship Program at Northwestern University Medical School.

BRAIN FORUM MARCH 19



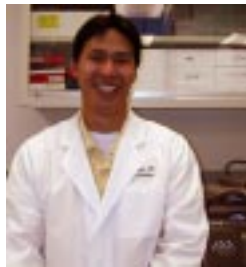
Kids had fun at last year's children's event, Brain Night. This year's event is Thurs., March 24.

Don't forget! A free public forum on "The Aging Brain," moderated by **Dr. "Red" Duke**, will be held 10:30 a.m. - noon Sat., **March 19**, in MSB 3.001.

For more information on upcoming activities, visit <http://nba.uth.tmc.edu/nrc/baw/2005_public_forum.htm>.

MENTORED FELLOW SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO TRAVELER'S DISEASE

According to experts, one of the leading problems among U.S. travelers to developing countries is traveler's diarrhea, which is acquired through the ingestion of water or food that becomes contaminated with enteric pathogens. Of the 20 million travelers from industrialized nations who visit developing countries annually, 40 percent of them will contract traveler's diarrhea.



Dr. David Huang

David Huang, M.D., Ph.D., a fellow in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, has studied travelers to Guadalajara, Mexico; Goa, India; and Montego Bay, Jamaica. A first-time principal investigator in a recently awarded NIH four-year mentored clinical training K23 grant, Huang is examining enteroaggregative *Escherichia coli* virulence.

Huang's K23 grant is under the mentorship of **Herbert L. DuPont, M.D.** at the UT School of Public Health. "Dr. Huang is shedding important light on a cause of protracted diarrhea of children in developing regions and in travelers to these areas," DuPont said. "His studies are helping to define the pathogen, allowing us to differentiate an emerging cause of worldwide illness, from normal and nonpathogenic intestinal *E. coli*. Dr. Huang has accomplished a great deal in his short time pursuing the research."

Huang's background includes a psychology degree, magna cum laude, from Trinity University, a medical degree in 2000 from the Medical School, as well as a Ph.D. from the School of Public Health.

"We're looking at this organism to see which strains are virulent and which are nonvirulent," Huang said. "This bacteria does not cause diarrheal illness in all individuals. Our long-term goal is to find the factors present in strains that are most likely to cause illness, and if developing antibodies to these factors are protective against strains of this bacteria." - C. O'Brien

CARDIOVASCULAR SUMMER EXTERNS ACCEPTED TO MED SCHOOL

Two of the four cardiovascular summer extern participants in the Mary Ann Lunsford Student Summer Externship in Cardiovascular Medicine will become first-year medical students this coming fall: **Cameron Roberts**, a human biology major at UT Austin, and **Michael Merrick**, an economics major at Rice University.

Both students were part of a six-week externship under the direction of **Dr. Richard Smalling**, Internal Medicine/Cardiology.

The program was established over six years ago and introduces cardiovascular medicine to undergraduate students who qualify.

Each summer, four juniors from college get hands-on exposure to a wide range of heart disease subjects, including: diagnosis, treatment, prevention, anatomy, surgery, intensive care, rehabilitation, catheterization, and cardiovascular testing.

Beaumont engineer **Ralph Lunsford** established a \$50,000 endowment in memory of his late wife to support the endeavor. Each student receives a \$1,000 stipend.

The externship is highly competitive. Every year, between 40 and 60 students apply for the four available openings.

- C. O'Brien



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WHY CONSTRUCTION DELAYS ARE A PART OF THE PICTURE

By Jim Victor, Manager, Project Management and Engineering

Editor's Note: Jim Victor is responsible for all project management and engineering in the health science center, including the Medical School's recovery, basement buildout, and RRF construction.

In the midst of all the construction activity, I thought it was important to thank you the Medical School community, for your patience, because you are why we are here. We know we inconvenience people by blocking pedestrian pathways and taking parking away and causing noise at off-hours. We try to schedule all the noise around exams so that there are a minimum number of people impacted. We try to coordinate activities with the School on a weekly basis. Our goal is good communication with the Dean's office, as well as looking out for the students, the researchers, the staff, and the other projects.

We know that to win your trust, it's a result of us keeping our agreements, or our predictions, with people. We want very much to be trusted. We don't always keep the schedules we promise, and we don't want to lose your trust over those occasions where we don't do what we say will be done.



Jim Victor

We do not like delays, but for the most part, when they happen, there is a good reason. You have good people doing good work, and usually there is a good explanation for why the change and delay occurred.

Construction delays in the commercial industry are a lot like what homeowners go through when building or remodeling their home and negotiating with a contractor about a timeline and costs. Anyone who's ever built a house and had the contractor

come back and say that the carpet isn't available, the paint color has changed, or the light fixtures won't be ready because the subcontractor is in Florida and there was a hurricane, deals with concerns like: Can you choose new light fixtures, or are you willing to wait an extra month for a new order to come in? We deal with the same types of issues.

Float time

We require detailed schedules, but in any detailed schedule that's put together, we take into account the fact that there are going to be unforeseen problems. We factor that in with "float" or float time. For us, as much as 10 percent of the whole schedule can be assigned to float. We normally have a fixed price contract with a float. If the contractor doesn't finish on time, anywhere from \$500-2,500/day, called "liquidated damages," can be assessed and taken out of the final payment.

Reasons for missed dates

Reasons we miss dates include: the weather — excessive rain days or a tropical storm can have an impact on outside projects — and unforeseen conditions — major live electrical feeders in the basement, for instance, were discovered in a different place than indicated on the drawings. Once discovered, we had to get designers and engineers to come in, do an assessment, and redraw. Then we paid overtime to the contractor to make up for lost time. This is a common way to recover lost time when the contractor is not at fault.

Another reason for the occasional minor delay that can come up in the middle of a project is called "errors and omissions," causing maybe a day's delay here or there.

Start dates for major projects that get interrupted — such as the berm project — are different. The berm project was delayed six months because, after we appropriately hired the original contractor, they went into default. They couldn't provide the bonding (insurance), to cover the project. Consequently, they were no longer certified by the state. So, we had to hire a new contractor.

Additionally, there's always an element of people missing a date for a design, or for delivery of necessary building materials, or of people who just don't live up to their commitments.

The last most important cause of delay is having five other projects going on around any given project and working in tandem with them. Any one project can impact the others, making coordination critical.

We do the best we can. We're open to showing anyone what's going on at any given time. Please contact me at 713-500-4995 or by e-mail at <James.Victor@uth.tmc.edu>.

STAR AWARDS HONOR STATE EMPLOYEES



30-year STAR awards grace the reception table. - photo by H. van Dijk

The 2005 STAR Awards luncheon March 2 honored more than 600 employees for their service to the health science center. The following Medical School recipients were recognized:

30-year recipients

Lily K. Chang

Ester A. Fant

25-year recipients

Carolyn D. Ardoin

Ivy N. Baines

Richard B. Clark

Susan M. Cooley

Juserine Devereaux

Elizabeth J. Dial

W. P. Dubinsky, Jr.

Lance K. Gould

James C. Grotta

Florinda Guerra

Albert E. Gunn

Jacqueline T. Hecht

Julia E. Lever

Frances A. Marlow

Roger G. O'Neil

Howard M. Rhoades

Lawrence Robinson

Eileen Scallan

Linda P. Schoenberg

Stanley G. Schultz

Mary M. Sobieski

Linda K. Soliz

Turatha Thomas-Grant

Stephen B. Tucker

Nancy E. Wilson

Brenda C. Woods

20-year recipients

Frank C. Arnett

Constance L. Atkins

Mary Battaglia

Karen D. Bishop

Margaret A. Dougherty

Shirley F. Edwards

Barbara A. Elmore

Wallace A. Gleason, Jr.

Phillip Heacock

Terri T. Jarreau

Jachu Judy Kao

Johanna K. Kincaid

Dianne C. Kirven

Daniel A. Klepac

Saroj Kumar

Joy C. Lilljedahl

David W. Marshak

Donald A. Molony

Lavondra K. Morrison

Donna Oldfield

S. C. Papasozomenos

Tammy Minh Phan

Debra D. Samuels

Dan P. Soliz

Roger Strong

INDOOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE FORMING

The Recreation Sports Department will be holding an Indoor Volleyball league instead of a Sand Volleyball league this spring. There will be a team captain's meeting 6 p.m. Wed., **March 16**, in classroom A of the recreation center.

In the past, the league only has lasted 3 to 4 weeks. But, due to construction, the league will be extended to 8 or 9 weeks. For more information call **Chucky Son** at 713-500-8422 or e-mail <Chucky.L.Son@uth.tmc.edu>.