



# Scoop

Jan. 6, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### January

- 9 Dr. Baron Chanda (UCLA)** to present "Structural Dynamics of Ion Channels Revealed by Fluorescence Spectroscopy." 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.
- 11 Dr. Christopher Miller (Brandeis University)** to present Dean's Lecture Series titled "Squinting at the Inner Workings of Chloride Channels and Transporters." 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.
- 11 Flag Football League Team Captain's Meeting.** 6 p.m., UTHSC-H Recreation Center classroom A. Contact Chucky Son at 713.500.8422.
- 13 Gross Anatomy Cadaver Memorial Service.** Noon, 5th Floor Gallery. MS I students will play music, recite poetry, and light candles to honor each donor. Drs. Len Cleary and Henry Strobel will speak. Community invited to attend.

## MEDICAL SCHOOL WEB SITE REDESIGN DEBUTS TODAY



With dominant photos, a more functional search tool, and a pleasing color palette, the Medical School's Web site debuts today, Jan. 6, with a fresh new look.

**Dean Stanley Schultz** charged the Office of Communications with leading the redesign effort last August. Since that time, **Phyllis Love**, of that office, has led the undertaking by assembling a Web team made up of staff, faculty, and administration to hone the content and look. **Roy Prichard**, senior graphic designer, has been tasked with designing the Web pages.

"Roy comes up with the design, and Phyllis translates them into html and then creates all of the pages. It truly has been a group effort, reaching beyond this office to faculty, staff, and students," said **Darla Brown**, director of Communications.

The Web team conducted an online survey for all Medical School faculty, staff, and students, which helped to direct both the content and design of the site. Users clamored for a friendly search tool that allowed them to search the contents of just the Medical School or the UT Health Science Center independently. They also wanted a new look to the homepage that was inviting and pleasing to the eye.

Two focus groups were held – one for students and one for faculty and staff. These groups received a sneak peek of the site in progress and were able to offer feedback on both the old site and the one in progress.

Students complained about outdated information and poor organization from department to department on the old site. "We lose out on quality students because they get freaked out about disorganization in many areas of the Web site," commented one student.

Faculty and staff said they were frustrated by broken links and the lack of phone numbers listed (Cont'd. on back)

## PEREZ NAMED 2005 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Ismael Perez**, systems and applications specialist III for the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, was named the Medical School's 2005 Employee of the Year at the annual Dean's Holiday Reception Dec. 14, 2005.

Perez provides system and network support for approximately 150 department personnel and has been with the school since 1997. In addition, he is a member of the User/Desktop Support Advisory Committee. The committee advises the Medical School Information Technology Office about issues of computer uses and desktop support.

"His team spirit, can-do attitude, and excellent computer skills make Ismael a highly valued employee at both the departmental and institutional levels," his nominator said.



**Ismael Perez** says a few words at the reception.



Get your copy today!  
The fall issue of *UT-Houston Medicine* is available in the Office of Communications, MSB B340.

## UTMost Interest

**Frank Yatsu, M.D.**, clinical professor of neurology and holder of the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Chair in Neurology, is featured in the HAM-TMC Library's logo design for use in publications and the library's Web site. A constant library supporter, Yatsu was chair of neurology for 20 years.

**Susan Landry, Ph.D.**, director of the Division of Developmental Pediatrics and the Michael Matthew Knight Memorial Professor of Pediatrics, was quoted in the Nov. 23 issue of the *Houston Chronicle* about the Texas Early Education Model (TEEM).



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

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

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## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS FACULTY SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Survey says — if you want highly rated posters, photography, medical illustration, graphic design, and CD-Rom/DVD creation, head to the Office of Communications.

In an effort to better meet the needs of the Medical School faculty, the Office of Communications recently invited the faculty to participate in an online survey of its services. More than 10 percent of the faculty responded, providing valuable insight to the office.

Poster printing and design, followed by photography, proved to be the most popular services the office provides Medical School faculty. Fifty percent of surveyed faculty rated these services as “very good” and 32 percent rated them as “good,” with quality edging out price as the most important factor when choosing a vendor for a creative service.

Sixty percent of faculty said they were willing to pay extra for same-day service of printing of scientific research posters. Effective Jan. 2, 2006, the Office of Communications instituted a 50 percent same-day rush charge for the printing of scientific research posters.

“This survey helped us make this decision even though rush charges are common in the industry,” said **Darla Brown**, director of the office. “With the increasing demand of posters on our personnel and machines, this is something we needed to do.”

With 34 percent of faculty responding that they foresee converting their lecture slides to a digital format within the year, the office is planning a summer promotion.

“We want to help our faculty stay current in the classroom, and digitized slides are a great way to start. We will be advertising a special package for faculty for the summer,” Brown added.

The Office of Communications is located in the basement, across from the green elevators, B.340.

### Bridging Grant, Just Missed Grant Applications Due

Applications for the Bridging Grant and Just Missed Grant are due by Jan. 15. The Just Missed Grant provides support to applicants of new National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants who place in the top 25th percentile but have not received funding. The Bridging Grant provides support to applicants seeking to renew grant applications that have not been funded within the past nine months by an extramural agency and have received a competitive ranking.

Send applications electronically to [Kimberly.J.Campbell@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Kimberly.J.Campbell@uth.tmc.edu). Proposals up to \$50,000 for one year can be submitted. Include a letter from the principle investigator’s chair, the summary statement of the original proposal, a letter containing the investigator’s request, and other support information from all funding sources including the dates covered by such support. Also, provide the previous summary budget. For more information, call 713.500.5605.

### Web site redesign, cont’d.

on Web sites, as well as the lack of consistent content from page to page.

While departments have not been redesigned as a part of this Web rollout, Dean Schultz is mandating that templates be used for departmental homepages to ensure consistent content, current links, and an ease of transition from page to page. This phase of the redesign is forthcoming.

Meanwhile, users are encouraged to use the feedback button on the homepage of the new site, [med.uth.tmc.edu](http://med.uth.tmc.edu), to offer suggestions and comments.

“The Web site is a living thing – it will continue to progress and change,” Love said.

## Houston Hosts International Meeting on Inherited Bone Disorder

Experts from around the world gathered at the Shriners Hospital Nov. 4-5, 2005, to share their research on multiple hereditary exostoses (MHE) – an inherited bone growth disorder.

The second international MHE meeting was sponsored by Shriners Hospital and the National Institutes of Health Office of Rare Diseases, said meeting co-organizer **Jacqueline Hecht, Ph.D.**, professor of pediatrics and director of the Genetic Counseling Program at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

Twenty-nine scientists and physicians presented research results on MHE, which causes benign bony spurs, or outgrowths, on the growth plates at the ends of bones. In rare instances, the growths become malignant.

The meeting was designed to establish a clinical and research community devoted to understanding and treating MHE by bringing together basic researchers from various disciplines, orthopedic physicians, medical geneticists, and families with MHE.

Hecht said a Nov. 5, 2005, workshop for people who have the condition attracted 100 participants from as far away as Japan and Russia. Genetic counseling student **Sandra Darilek** and Hecht presented results of a study on MHE and pain at the workshop.

Co-organizers with Hecht were **Sarah Ziegler**, national director and coordinator of research for the MHE Coalition, and **Dan Wells, Ph.D.**, professor, University of Houston.

-S. Merville



Organizers of the second international meeting on MHE were (L-R) Sarah Ziegler, Dan Wells, and Jacqueline Hecht.

### Help Plan GSBS Faculty Retreat

Faculty, students, alumni, and other supporters of The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston (GSBS) are encouraged to provide ideas and suggest topics for a May 12-13 faculty retreat. The retreat’s focus will be on major issues and school-wide goals important for strategic planning, allocation of resources, and major academic decisions, according to **Dean George Stancel, Ph.D.**, the John P. McGovern GSBS Endowed Professor.

To prepare for the retreat, Stancel has asked senior members of the GSBS staff to convene working groups of faculty, students, and alumni who will team with relevant GSBS standing committees to identify key issues and challenges.

Send comments to the appropriate person from the following list:

- [Linda.M.Carter@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Linda.M.Carter@uth.tmc.edu) – Development, Public Affairs, Alumni Affairs
- [Paul.E.Darlington@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Paul.E.Darlington@uth.tmc.edu) – Administrative Operations, Organization and Finance
- [Thomas.J.Goka@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Thomas.J.Goka@uth.tmc.edu) – Outreach, Diversity, Student Affairs
- [Victoria.P.Knutson@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Victoria.P.Knutson@uth.tmc.edu) – Admissions and Recruiting Activities
- [Jon.R.Wiener@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Jon.R.Wiener@uth.tmc.edu) – Academic Affairs