

## Events to Know

### October

**9 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman** to present "Structure and Function of Glutamate Receptor." Noon, MSB 2.135.

**10 James T. Willerson, M.D., Lecture Series: Dr. Myron Weisfeldt** (The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) to present "Advances in CPR Research." Noon-1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

**10 "Improvisation and Medical Communication: Lessons Learned from the Jazz World"** presented by Dr. Paul Haidet (DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine). Noon-1 p.m., MSB B.610.

**11 "Employment Policies," an HR-Training and Development course.** 9 a.m.-noon, MSB B.605.

**12 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar: Dr. Eric Phizicky** (University of Rochester) to present "tRNA: How and why it is all dressed up." 4-5 p.m., MSB 2.103.

**16 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Farrah Kheradmand** (Baylor College of Medicine) to present "Adaptive Immunity in Smoker's Lung Disease." Noon, MSB 2.135.

**18 "Religion, Aging, and Health: Historical Perspectives, Current Trends, and Future Prospects"** presented by Dr. Jeff Levin, pioneering scientist whose research helped create the field of religion, spirituality, and health. Noon-1 p.m., MSB B.100. Lunch provided for first 50 attendees.

**18 Faculty Honors Convocation.** 4 p.m., Beth Robertson Auditorium in the Faye S. Sarofim Research Building.

**19 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar: Dr. Kevin Morano** to present "All in the family: Regulation of Hsp70 by a divergent Hsp70 chaperone." 4-5 p.m., MSB 3.301.

## University receives \$36 million NIH grant to spur innovation

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston a \$36-million, five-year grant Oct. 3 to enhance clinical and translational research, ultimately improving patient care and community health.

With the federal funding, the UT Health Science Center will become home to one of the nation's first Centers for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS), which will be constructed on the top floor of the Medical School Building. The health science center and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center partnered in planning the grant and will collaborate on many research and educational activities supported by the new center. The health science center also will work on collaborative projects with Memorial Hermann Healthcare System and The University of Texas School of Public Health's Brownsville Regional Campus.

The new center – the only one of its kind in Texas – will be designed to spur research innovation, so that new treatments can be developed more efficiently and delivered more quickly to patients.

"It is meant to improve the nation's health," said **Dr. Frank Arnett Jr.**, professor of internal medicine and principal investigator and director of the CCTS. "This new program was created to advance the speed and sophistication of basic science findings to the patient care arena."

*(Cont'd. on back)*



A reception complete with a champagne toast and dollar sign-shaped sugar cookies was held Oct. 3 to celebrate the university's CCTS.

## New safety measures on tap at Medical School

With more than 30 computers reportedly stolen from the Medical School in the recent past, the focus is on security. Thieves have broken into offices, broken security locks, and broken computer hardware in attempts to steal laptops and other computer parts.

As a result, Interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky** has approved a multi-phase plan to improve safety at the Medical School.

"We must address this problem. The security and safety of our personnel and equipment must remain our highest priorities," he said.

The first phase of the new safety program will lock down access between the Medical School Building and Memorial Hermann Hospital on floors 2 through 7 in off hours (from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. and over weekends). Access by badge will only be available at the first floor connection between the buildings during these hours. Later this year, when a vestibule has been added to the connection on floor 2, that floor also will be accessible via badge in off hours. Connections on all floors will continue to be accessible via badges during normal work hours.

Entry to the ground floor of the Medical School Building during off hours also will be tightened. The ground floor entrances at Ross Sterling Street and at Fannin Street will be secured, and the only after hours entrance will be via Webber Plaza. For safety purposes, exiting will continue to be available at all three locations. Everyone entering the building will be expected to wear UT badges. Individuals without badges who request access to the building will be required to check in at the guard's desk and to provide picture identification.

"The majority of these thefts are occurring after work hours, so locking down access to the building will force traffic by the guard," explained **Sgt. Armando Gamboa**, UT Police Department, Certified Crime Prevention Specialist (CCPS).

The Medical School administration has been working with the UT Police Department to create

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## Help save lives...join Heart Walk 2006

Sign up today and help save lives for Heart Walk 2006 set for 8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 at Sam Houston Park. The walk benefits the American Heart Association, which has funded more than \$12 million in research at the UT Health Science Center.

**Dr. Dianna Milewicz**, professor and director of the Division of Medical Genetics and the President George H. W. Bush Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, recently joined the Heart Walk as the health science center team's honorary chair.

Help the health science center create a team of 400 walkers and raise \$25,000 to benefit research for heart disease and stroke by getting involved. Here's how:

- Join a university team or become a team captain.
- Donate to the university's campaign effort.
- Get friends, family, business partners, and vendors to contribute to your effort.

For more information or to sign up as a team captain, contact **Lauren Hughey** at 713.500.3024 or visit [www.uthouston.edu/community/heartwalk/](http://www.uthouston.edu/community/heartwalk/).

## *School safety, cont'd.*

a master plan delineating current camera surveillance and opportunities for improvements in the number of cameras, recording technologies, and monitoring capabilities. Wolinsky has approved all phases of this master plan, and implementation will begin immediately.

"There are already over 70 cameras in and around the Medical School Building alone," Gamboa added.

The master plan implementation will add approximately 20 additional cameras in strategic locations, especially around the perimeter entrances, the loading dock, the bike parking area, and the emergency "code blue" phone locations. All new and existing cameras will not only be recorded locally, but those recordings also may be monitored both at the Medical School Building guard desks at Webber Plaza and at Fannin Street and at the UT Police Department command station on Knight Road.

When the new monitoring equipment is in place at the Fannin Street guard desk, the plan is to move the off hours guard's desk from its current location at Webber Plaza to the Fannin Street entrance, where the guard's desk is in close proximity to the entrance of the Medical School. At that time, the Fannin Street entrance will become the only open entrance during off hours, and the Webber and Ross Sterling entrances will be closed during off hours.

"The plan to move to only one off hours entrance will commence immediately, once we get the green light from Environmental Health and Safety," Wolinsky said.

Other security measures include badge access for the doors leading from the loading dock to the basement of the Medical School, which is already in place, and the planned reinstatement of a loading dock gate to be closed after hours. In addition, contractor superintendents will no longer be issued keys to the building. Escorts by UT Police personnel or UT facilities personnel will be required for contractor-related opening of doors during after hours work. The school also has been notified by the university facilities department that a rekeying project will begin this year that will eventually cover all university buildings.

"We are taking these security concerns very seriously. I urge everyone to secure their personal equipment as well as all university belongings and to alert UT Police of any suspicious activities. In addition, the UT Police escort service is available for employees working after hours," Wolinsky added.

-D. Brown

## *CCTS, cont'd.*

The health science center was one of only 12 academic medical centers in the country to earn a highly competitive Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) this year. The CTSA program is an NIH Roadmap for Medical Research initiative and will be administered by the National Center for Research Resources, a component of the NIH.

NIH Director **Dr. Elias Zerhouni** said these 12 institutions make up a new, national consortium that will transform how clinical and translational research is conducted.

"The development of this consortium represents the first systematic change in our approach to clinical research in 50 years," Zerhouni said. "Working together, these sites will serve as discovery engines that will improve medical care by applying new scientific advances to real world practice. We expect to see new approaches reach underserved populations, local community organizations, and health care providers to ensure that medical advances are reaching the people who need them."

**Dr. Jerry Wolinsky**, interim dean of the Medical School, said the grant award is a "wonderful success" for the school. "It is a program that needed to be instituted, and we are very pleased for the NIH support with funding in the first round," Wolinsky said.

The grant program encourages institutions to propose new approaches to clinical and translational research, including new organizational models and training programs at graduate and post-graduate levels.

A major goal of the CCTS is to support young investigators and foster original research.

"We'll be able to provide our expertise and help young investigators with study designs, statistics, regulatory and ethical issues, and so much more," said Arnett, the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology and director of the NIH/NIAMS Center for Research Translation in Scleroderma at the Medical School.

In addition to training for researchers, the center will serve as an "engine for innovation," Arnett said.

"We have been gathering some of the most successful and novel-thinking researchers to serve as a think tank," Arnett said. "There is so much science out there that is applicable to so many human diseases. New scientific information and technologies are not being integrated fast enough or being applied to multiple biomedical disciplines in a timely manner. We need to change that by coming up with creative ways to more quickly get results from the laboratory bench to the patient's bedside and clinic."

Core, state-of-the-art laboratories in genetics, micro-arrays, proteomics, immunology, and MRI imaging will help facilitate more rapid research results, Arnett said.

The center is expected to be complete within the next year. It will represent an expansion of the Medical School's University Clinical Research Center (UCRC) and the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine.

Co-directors include **Dr. Pablo Okhuysen**, professor of internal medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and director of the UCRC; **Dr. Jon Tyson**, assistant dean for clinical research and director of the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine; and **Dr. Razelle Kurzrock**, professor of medicine at M. D. Anderson.

-M. Raine

**"Organ Transplant in the U.S.  
Past, Present & Future"**

**Presented by U.S. Surgeon General  
Rear Admiral Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu**

5-6 p.m., Oct. 11

Methodist Hospital Dunn-Rio Grande Conference Room