

## Events to Know

### September

**11 Blood drive to honor victims of Sept. 11.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Medical School Leather Lounge.

**11 Dr. David Farrens (Oregon Health & Science University)** to present "Shutting off GPCR Signaling: Insights and Mysteries." Noon, MSB 2.135.

**11 MSRDP Board Meeting.** 4 p.m.-6 p.m., MSB 2.103. All members invited.

**12 Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) course: "Acupuncture: What's the Evidence?"** Noon-1 p.m., MSB 1.006.

**12 Cultural Humility in Medicine series for blue book credit: "Treating LGBT Patients."** Noon-1 p.m., MSB 2.006. Earn credit by attending seven of nine sessions; seven sessions remain in the series.

**14 2nd Annual Frank M. Yatsu Stroke Symposium.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m., MSB B.100. See [www.utcm.net](http://www.utcm.net) or contact Yvette Sanders at 713.500.7092.

**14 CAM course: "Integrating CAM into Your Medical Practice."** Noon-1 p.m., MSB 1.006.

**14 Dean's Town Hall Meeting.** Noon-1 p.m., MSB 3.001. Lunch available for first 100 attendees. Anonymous questions for Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky may be submitted via [Sheila.R.Donnell@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Sheila.R.Donnell@uth.tmc.edu).

**18 Dr. K. Vinod Vijayan (Baylor College of Medicine)** to present "Regulation of Integrin AlphaIIbBeta3 Function by Serine/Threonine Phosphatases: Lessons from Platelets and Megakaryocytes." Noon, MSB 2.135.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. Evelyn Chan**, assistant professor of internal medicine, presented "Informed Decision Making for Unproven Screening Tests in Primary Care and Community Settings: Ethical and Practical Issues" June 27 at The Phoebe R. Berman Bioethics Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

## Monga moves up to direct maternal-fetal medicine

**Dr. Susan Ramin**, chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, has announced the appointment of **Dr. Manju Monga** as the new director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and the division's fellowship program, effective Sept. 1.

Monga has personal experience with the division and fellowship program, as she first came to the Medical School as a fellow in 1991 to participate in the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program. She completed the fellowship in 1993 and immediately joined the obstetrics and gynecology faculty.

Monga has gradually worked her way up the ladder and learned from the best along the way. She said she is "honored and excited" about her new roles with the division and department.

"I feel lucky to have had many wonderful mentors in my time here at UT-Houston, and I hope to continue that tradition by being supportive of and encouraging professional growth and development among all members of our team," Monga said.

The Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine is recognized as one of 14 National Institutes of Health Maternal-Fetal Medicine Network Centers. The division offers consultations to patients with high-risk obstetrical problems, as well as ongoing prenatal care for high-risk patients. The division also offers pre-pregnancy counseling for patients with medical problems, complicated obstetrical histories, or for those patients who want up-to-date information before attempting pregnancy.

"I hope to continue the expansion of our consultation services into our community hospitals, so that women can receive specialized care close to home," said Monga, when asked about her



**Dr. Manju Monga**

*(Cont'd. on back)*

## Intensive cardiology review series going on now

Sixteen sessions of intensive cardiology review began this week at the Medical School with the Third Annual Texas Medical Center Cardiovascular Board Review Series, which runs through Oct. 26.

"This will be a wonderful forum to critically review the current thinking in diagnosis and management of the cardiovascular conditions relevant to those preparing for the cardiovascular board certification, as well as recertification," said **Dr. Francisco Fuentes**, holder of the Theodore & Maureen O'Driscoll-Levy professorship in cardiology research and associate director of the series. "We are hopeful that practitioners desiring an up-to-date, concise review of cardiology will also join us."

Organized by the Division of Cardiology, sessions meet weekly from 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in MSB 2.135. Drop-ins are welcome, and registration is free for all attendees. The next session is Tuesday, Sept. 12 and includes review of unstable coronary syndromes and hypertension.

Organizing committee members from the Division of Cardiology include **Drs. Alexander Butkevich**, program director; **Francisco Fuentes**, associate director; and **David McPherson**, associate director. Committee members also include representatives from M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Methodist Hospital, and Texas Heart Institute.

The last review session meets Thursday, Oct. 26. For more information, contact **Vikki Macha**, coordinator, at 713.500.6553.



**Dr. Francisco Fuentes**

*-C. Webb*



## Women and Liver Health Seminar set Sept. 30

Mark your calendars for the Women and Liver Health Seminar 2006 to be held Sept. 30 at the Hilton Post Oak Hotel in Houston.

The American Liver Foundation, in collaboration with the Medical School, will present this continuing medical education program. Participating Medical School faculty include **Drs. Rafael Botero**, Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; **S. Chris Pappas**, Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; **Ruben Quiros**, Pediatrics/Gastroenterology; and **Stanley Reiser**, Health and Human Spirit Program.

Some topics include current therapeutic approaches to viral hepatitis, liver disease during pregnancy, drug-induced hepatotoxicity, and nutritional considerations in women with chronic liver disease. A complete agenda can be found online at [www.utcmne.net](http://www.utcmne.net).

Registration is \$90, and a discounted rate of \$75 is offered to medical students.

The conference is accredited by The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, and attendees will receive a maximum of 6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™, including 1 credit of ethics. Details and registration currently are available at [www.UTcmne.net](http://www.UTcmne.net).

-C. Webb

## Blood & Platelet Drive for Lynn Altman, Sept. 17

The Department of Family Practice and Community Medicine would appreciate the Medical School's participation in a Replacement Blood & Platelet Drive for **Lynn Altman** from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17 at Congregation Brith Shalom, 4610 Bellaire Boulevard. Lynn is the wife of **Dr. Michael Altman**, assistant professor of family practice and community medicine. The blood and platelet drive is offered through M. D. Anderson Blood Bank.

To schedule an appointment, contact **Dianne Zomper** at 713.409.9696. For information on eligibility, contact **Terrie Moore** at 713.794.1360.

### Employee Appreciation Day!

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. / September 20

Webber Plaza

UT badge required for free food, drinks, gifts, and entertainment.

## Translational research seminar series begins Sept. 11

Translational research is the dynamic interface between basic research and clinical practice. During the fall 2006 semester, a new seminar series titled "Topics in Translational Research" will be held at noon Mondays in MSB B.100. The first lecture titled "What is translational research, and why should I care?" will be Sept. 11. **Drs. Joan Engebretson, Diane Wardell, Steven Norris, and Jerry Wolinsky** will talk about their experiences and motivation in applying basic science concepts to fulfill a clinical need.

This series may be attended by graduate students for course credit (GS 21041) or by medical students for blue book credit. Anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, see <http://dpalm.med.uth.tmc.edu/courses/tranres2006> or contact [Steven.J.Norris@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Steven.J.Norris@uth.tmc.edu).

## Many thanks to UT-TLC volunteers

Administrators and staff recently showed appreciation to participants in the UT Volunteers Tender Loving Care program, during a luncheon at The University of Texas Health Science Center Professional Building.

**Lynn Cutrer**, coordinator of the UT-TLC volunteers, thanked the volunteers and reminded them that they "are at the heart of the matter."

The volunteers of UT-TLC work within many of the UT Physicians clinics. They spend each day dedicating their time to meeting the needs of patients and UT professionals in the clinics. The volunteers also assist at the reception desk by answering questions and giving directions to visitors. Several of the volunteers described their experiences as rewarding and as life-lessons that teach patience.

Since the volunteer program began in 2005, the volunteers have dedicated more than 1,200 hours to the cause. One volunteer in particular, **Lou Ann McKinney**, volunteered 350 hours.

During the appreciation luncheon in the conference room of the Family and Community Medicine Clinic, clinic administrators and staff reflected on the dedication and hard work of the volunteer team. **Charles Figari**, vice president and chief Auxiliary Enterprises officer, hosted the event.

-N. Wong Camarata



UT-TLC volunteers were showered with thanks at a recent luncheon. Photo by M. Raine.

## Arts and Craft Fair call for vendors

Get ready for the holidays! The Medical School's Employee Relations Committee will host the 20th Annual Holiday Arts and Craft Fair from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. Vendor tables are still available for participants within the UT Health Science Center, including family members and retirees. For information or to receive a vendor application, contact **Dawn Alvarado** at 713.500.5103 or **Kathryn Merceri** at 713.500.6385.

### Monga, cont'd.

priorities for the division. "This is an initiative that was spearheaded over the last several years under the leadership of **Drs. Gilstrap** and **Ramin**."

Training the next generation of physicians is important to Monga, as she has participated as a faculty mentor in the fellowship program since joining the department. In addition, she was director for the residency program at Memorial Hermann Hospital through June of this year. Now, as director of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program, she wants to continue the tradition of mentoring future leaders in a field that looks for better outcomes for mother and baby.

"I am fortunate to be assuming the role of fellowship director at a time when there is renewed interest in subspecialization in our field, so it will be exciting to be part of that," she said.

Monga's research has focused on basic myometrial function, substance abuse in pregnancy, and professional and educational issues, while her clinical interest includes medical complications in pregnancy.

-C. Webb