

Events to Know

March

- 6 Medicine Grand Rounds: Dr. David Dale** (University of Washington) to present "Professionalism: Being Worthy to Serve the Suffering." Noon-1 p.m., MSB 3.001.
- 7 Sam and Elizabeth Nixon Lectureship in Family Medicine: Dr. Joseph Scherger** (University of California, San Diego) to present "The Redesign Imperative in Family Medicine." 1 p.m., MSB 2.135.
- 9 Skeleton Crew Holiday.**
- 9 Neurology Grand Rounds: Dr. Sharon Ostwald** (SON, Center on Aging) to present "Long Term Impact of Stroke on the Survivors and Their Spouses." Noon, MSB 2.135.
- 12 "The Controversial Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Medicine"** – a moderated debate between Dr. Howard Brody (UTMB) and Dr. Paul Antony (PhRMA). Noon-1:30 p.m., MSB 3.001.
- 14 Psychiatry Lecture Series: Dr. Sharon Morgan** (Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences) to present "Community-based Psychosocial Intervention with Children: Trials and Triumphs." 11 a.m., MSI Auditorium.

Construction Announcement

Beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, March 2 through 5 a.m. Monday, March 5, **all northbound lanes of Main Street from University Boulevard to North MacGregor will be closed** for a mat foundation pour for The Methodist Hospital Outpatient Care Center. Traffic will be redirected to Fannin Street at University Boulevard.

Hensel Phelps Construction Co. will have police officers stationed at the intersection of University Boulevard and Main Street and at the intersection of Fannin Street and University Boulevard to assist with traffic control and pedestrian crossings.

Medical School veteran returns to lead LBJ Hospital

Interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky** has announced the appointment of **Dr. Steven Brown**, former Medical School faculty member, as the new chief of staff of the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and associate dean for Harris County Programs at the Medical School, effective mid-April.

"We are very fortunate to have recruited Dr. Brown back to the Medical School," Wolinsky said. "His past experience with our system and the district, development of the compensation plan at Tyler, and honed analytic skills while at Navigant should serve us well. I have charged Steve to take the LBJ campus to a new level of excellence in care and to help it evolve into the premier site for the maturation of our next generations of academicians."

Brown came to the Medical School in 1991 as an assistant professor of internal medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and was promoted to an associate professor in 1997. He also served as vice chief of staff of LBJ General Hospital from 1999-2002.

Brown said he looks forward to returning to lead one of the Medical School's primary teaching hospitals and will work to advance the missions of the school.

"My goal will be to nurture an environment conducive to excellent clinical care, education, and research," Brown said. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, and patients involved with the Harris County Programs that have become an increasingly important component of UT Medical School's teaching, research, and clinical portfolio. The clinical diversity and volume at LBJ General Hospital and associated clinics provides a rich educational environment for trainees at all levels and a challenge to provide efficient, high quality medical care to the citizens of Harris County."

Currently, Brown is a medical director in the health care division of Navigant Consulting, Inc., an international, multifaceted consulting firm that provides support to a variety of public, academic, nonprofit, and group practice entities in areas of hospital management, facilities assessment, revenue cycle, contracting, performance improvement, market assessment, strategic planning, physician compensation, and relations between hospitals and physicians.



Dr. Steven Brown

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NRC presents public forum for Brain Awareness Week

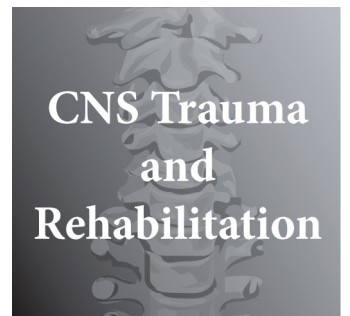
In conjunction with Brain Awareness Week, the Neuroscience Research Center (NRC) will present its 12th Annual Public Forum on "CNS Trauma and Rehabilitation" from 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 10 in room 3.001 of the Medical School.

Each year, the NRC's Public Forum covers a different aspect of neuroscience research. This year's forum – "Central Nervous System Trauma and Rehabilitation" – features a panel discussion moderated by neurosurgeon **Dr. Alex Valadka**, professor and vice chair of the Department of Neurosurgery.

The Central Nervous System (CNS), consisting of the brain and spinal cord, gathers and stores information for and acts as a control center for the body. Experts in the field will discuss CNS trauma and rehabilitation, including pre-hospital and emergency care, research, acute care, and neurosurgical issues involved.

Panelists for the forum include **Dr. Pramod Dash**, professor of neurobiology and anatomy and neurosurgery; **Dr. Elizabeth Jones**, assistant professor of emergency medicine; **Dr. Amir Malik**, assistant professor of neurosurgery; and **Dr. Elizabeth Noser**, assistant professor of neu-

(Cont'd. on back)



President Bush to nominate Casscells for assistant secretary of Defense



Dr. S. Ward Casscells

President George W. Bush announced Feb. 22 his intention to nominate **Dr. S. Ward Casscells III**, the John Edward Tyson Distinguished Professor of Medicine, a professor of cardiology, and vice president for biotechnology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, to be assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs is responsible for overall supervision of the health and medical affairs of the Department of Defense (DoD). The secretary serves as the principal advisor to the secretary of defense for all DoD health policies, programs, and activities, and exercises oversight of all DoD health resources.

“We are very proud of Dr. Casscells’ nomination by the President, as we are proud of all of his efforts that have been so very helpful to the Texas Medical Center and the citizens of Texas,” said **Dr. James T. Willerson**, president of the UT Health Science Center. “Dr. Casscells is one of the most creative physician-scientists in our country today. He is a dedicated public servant and patriot who will bring his creativity, compassion, and dedication to serve our men and women in uniform, our retired military, and their families.”

Casscells, who also is a U.S. Army Reserve colonel, returned last December from a three-month tour of duty in Iraq, where he served as a liaison to the U.S. ambassador to Iraq and the Iraqi health minister to create a protocol for health policy and medical administration in the region.

Casscells has been deployed to the Middle East and Asia to study the avian flu and assess the possibility of a worldwide pandemic. Because of his work as the U.S. Army Medical Command’s senior medical advisor for avian influenza and pandemic influenza, Casscells was awarded the U. S. Army’s Meritorious Service Medal.

Casscells came to Houston in 1992. From 1994 to 2000, he served as the Levy Professor and chief of cardiology at the Medical School and Memorial Hermann Hospital.

The current assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, since October 2001, is **Dr. William Winkenwerder**.

LBJ leadership, cont’d.

Before Navigant Consulting, Brown served as the chief medical officer of The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler and regional vice president for medical affairs for the Kern Service Area of Catholic Healthcare West.

Brown received his medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, and critical care medicine. Brown is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and the American College of Physicians.

Since Feb. 1, LBJ General Hospital has been under the interim direction of **Dr. Peter Doyle**, assistant professor and director of the LBJ anesthesiology service.

-C. Webb

Scherger to present Sam and Elizabeth Nixon Lectureship March 7

Dr. Joseph Scherger, professor of clinical family and preventive medicine at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, will present the Sam and Elizabeth Nixon Lectureship in Family Medicine on “The Redesign Imperative in Family Medicine” at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 in room 2.135 of the Medical School.

Scherger’s main focus is on the redesign of office practice using the tools of information technology and quality improvement.

He has received numerous awards, including Outstanding Clinical Instructor in the School of Medicine at the University of California, Davis, in 1984, 1989, and 1990. In 1989, he was chosen as Family Physician of the Year by the American Academy of Family Physicians and the California Academy of Family Physicians. In 1992, Scherger was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

He has written more than 300 medical publications and has given more than 700 invited presentations. He served as editor-in-chief of *Hippocrates*, published by the Massachusetts Medical Society, from 1999-2001, and he was the first medical editor of *Family Practice Management*. In 1986, he served as president of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine.



Dr. Joseph Scherger

Brain awareness, cont’d.

rology and co-director of the UT Stroke Program.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. Visit <http://nba.uth.tmc.edu/nrc/> for details and to register.

More events to boost your brain power

- As part of The Health Museum’s *Brain Basics* speaker series, **Dr. John Byrne**, professor and chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy and director of the NRC, will speak about “Memory, how it works and how it fails” at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 15. Lectures are held in the McGovern Theater and are free with general admission to the museum. The Health Museum is located at 1515 Hermann Drive.

- Don’t miss the chance to take your kids to *UT Brain Night*, a mind-blowing evening of science at The Health Museum, from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 15. Hosted by the NRC, this educational yet fun event is free for children and their families. Kids can see a real human brain, participate in brain science activities and brainy crafts, ask doctors questions about the brain, have their faces painted, and collect balloons and prizes.

- *BRAIN: The World Inside Your Head* is a fascinating, limited-engagement exhibit on view at The Health Museum through May 6. Using innovative special effects, hands-on learning activities, video games, optical illusions, and interactive displays, *BRAIN* provides a hands-on and up-close look at the human body’s most essential and fascinating organ by exploring its development, geography, and function. During the run of the *BRAIN* exhibit, The Health Museum is offering reduced admission to all UT Health Science Center employees who show their ID badge.

-C. Webb