



# Scoop

Friday, November 20, 1998

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

### EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Arts and Crafts Fair**, Thursday, **Dec. 3**, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Leather Lounge.
- **Dr. Marilyn Doyle**, "HIV Update," Tuesday, **Dec. 8**, 8 - 9 a.m., 3.001.
- **Dr. Bashar Alaswad**, "New Issues About Chron's," Tuesday, **Dec. 22**, 8 - 9 a.m., 3.001.

**FYI** - Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no *Scoop* next week.

Win a Beanie Baby just in time for the holidays! Benefiting the Houston Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and UT-Houston Medical School Class of 2001. These Beanie Babies are featured: Glory, Snowball, Erin, Halo, '97 & '98 Teddy. Purchase tickets

Nov. 30 - Dec. 4, Leather Lounge, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets \$2.50/ea or 5/\$10. Questions, call **Jeff Thompson**, MSII Rep., (713) 426-1854.

### APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

**Dr. Jan R. Radke**, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and **L. A. Meyers**, Executive Director of the MSRDP Practice Plan, have announced the following appointments: **Elizabeth Wagner**, Director of Patient Accounts; **Jerry Ford**, Director of Physician Services; **Dana Ruth**, Manager of Staff Support Services; and **Kit Cassidy**, Director of Payer Relations. These filled positions are part of the reorganized business operation process resulting from the RPR-IDX Implementation project (see *Scoop* 10/30/98).



### Deck the halls time!

Donate an ornament for the Leather Lounge holiday tree. Drop off at Community Affairs, G.004.

### UROLOGY STUDY UNDER WAY

The Division of Urology is recruiting postmenopausal women, 50+, not on hormone replacement therapy, with urine leakage and frequent urination, for a research study. Those qualifying will receive free evaluation and treatment. For information call (713) 500-7323.

### BROWN NAMED LBJ HOSPITAL VICE CHIEF OF STAFF

**Dean Maximilian Buja** announced the appointment of **Dr. Steven Brown** to Vice Chief of Staff at Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) General Hospital effective January 1, 1999. Brown presently serves in the capacity of Chief of Medicine there. He was appointed to that position in June of 1997 and will retain that position. Prior to that, Brown had been an active faculty member at LBJ serving as chief of adult pulmonary and critical care medicine. **Dr. James Willerson**, internal medicine chair, noted, "Dr. Brown is an outstanding physician/teacher and will continue to be an excellent leader at LBJ."

### RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

Twenty research infrastructure proposals requesting more than \$2 million have been reviewed by the Medical School's Research Committee in response to an initiative launched earlier in the year by **Dean Maximilian Buja** to fund vital equipment and research infrastructure needs throughout the School. Using an NIH-like review process, the Research Committee prioritized the requests. The Dean is providing immediate funds to support proposals from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for replacement of centrifuges and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery for establishment of a bone histomorphometry lab. Another nine proposals received high priority scores and those individuals have been notified of the Dean's intention to identify additional funds to meet their needs as funds become available. Says Dr. Buja, "I've recently notified those who submitted requests and want to commend all for their commitment to improve our research infrastructure. I am impressed by the quality of all of these proposals and will continue my internal efforts to fulfill these needs in as fair and equitable manner as possible using the resources available to us."

### NOBEL LAUREATE RECEIVES REGENTAL PROFESSORSHIP

At their recent meeting in Houston, the UT Board of Regents conferred on **Dr. Ferid Murad** the title of Regental Professor, an honorary position that is reserved for Nobel laureates within the UT System. Additionally, he has been provided a \$500,000 research grant by the Regents to support his research activities. The regents have made similar research grants from the Permanent University Fund (PUF) to other UT faculty who have won Nobel Prizes. "The members of the Board of Regents wish to convey to Dr. Murad their heartfelt congratulations and express tremendous pride for the world-renowned recognition that he has received," said **Tom Loeffler**, chairman of the Board's Health Affairs Committee.

### LAB ANIMAL SITE VISIT TEAM HERE DEC. 1 - 4

From Tuesday, **Dec. 1** through Friday, **Dec. 4**, the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care - International (AAALAC) site visit team will be recertifying the Medical School's animal care and use program. The site visit will not only include all facilities of the UT-HHSC Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care, but will include all satellite facilities that are approved by the Animal Welfare Committee. All research laboratories that use animals are also made available for visitation if requested by the site visitors. Of primary interest will be survival surgery, prolonged animal restraint, trauma, or procedures that deal with biohazardous agents. Laboratories selected for visits will be random. For further information call 500-7521 or 500-7542.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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## YOU CAN GO BACK - DR. NANCY DICKEY VISITS HER ALMA MATER

"Do you still remember your reproductive biology?" teased **Dr. Anna Steinberger**, office of faculty affairs, and a former teacher of the Nov. 11th lecturer standing before her, **Dr. Nancy Dickey**. She is both a graduate of this School and the first woman president of the American Medical Association. A hundred and fifty people filed into the 3.001 lecture hall at lunchtime to listen to the farm-raised woman from South Dakota deliver the 1998 Sam and Elizabeth Nixon Lecture. "In high school in Katy, Texas, I was involved in just about every activity but football and Future Farmers of America," said Dickey. Homemaking, debating, basketball, volleyball, and playing the drums, were some of her childhood passions.



From left, Drs. Carlos Moreno, Nancy Dickey, and Sam Nixon

In her talk entitled "The Challenges of Academic Medicine; Advocacy and Accountability," Dickey began to outline the changes that have taken place in medicine over the last 20 years, both to her professionally and in the field itself. She still maintains a Brazos Valley Family Practice Residency Program at Texas A&M, and is a 1987 recipient of this school's Distinguished Alumnus Award. Dickey then continued "It's good to be back here, although that's really a euphemism; this building didn't exist when I was a student here. We were at Center Pavilion Hospital and the Dental School when I was here."

Years ago, according to Dickey, medicine was seen as a self-absorbed profession. "We were more concerned back then about whether we could afford the tuition, not whether we could pass the course work," she reminisced. Dickey then outlined her plan of action for physicians today: first establish a code of ethics, the basis of which has been in existence from Hippocrates through the nineteenth century scholars in Europe; and second, set universal standards of medical education.

"This is a living breathing process that needs input from everyone," she emphasized. By the time a medical student goes through four years, there is almost an entire turnover of medical knowledge, Dickey said. "We need to dispose of the old knowledge to make room for the new knowledge." Dickey's other points included:

- How do we get new information to doctors in small towns? Perhaps telemedicine is a way of addressing that problem.
- How do we increase the accountability of medical schools and produce not just good technicians, but humane ones?
- How do we turn care at the end-of-life, an important topic, into a top concern?
- How do we fund future medical education?

Whether you're a neurosurgeon, an endocrinologist or a family physician, the days of doctors who can say dismissively 'I haven't got time to talk to my patients,' she urged, need to be days of the past.

## Not All Estrogens Are Created Equal

"When I was in Sweden recently, REA was plastered all over the storefront windows. I was glad to see that they were knowledgeable about the REA protein even before I published on it. I later learned that REA in Swedish means 'sale!'" So began **Dr. Benita Katzenellenbogen's** Nov. 16th lecture on "New Insights into the Actions of Estrogens and Antiestrogens" to a packed crowd in lecture hall 3.001. Dr. Katzenellenbogen is a summa cum laude graduate of the City College of New York, a Ph.D. from Harvard, an elected fellow of the American Academy of Sciences, and a professor in the departments of Molecular and Integrative Physiology and Cell and Structural Biology, University of Illinois. In beginning her talk, she thoughtfully credited her colleagues' efforts as well. Katzenellenbogen pointed out that in breast cancer and uterine concerns, the Repressor of Estrogen Activity (REA) protein that she recently discovered, is present at reduced levels relative to normal tissue. She also looked at the effects of Estradiol, Tamoxifen, and newer selective estrogen receptor modulators (or SERMS) on reproductive tissues and breast cancer. She measured interactions of these agents with the estrogen receptor via a series of mutagenesis studies. She discussed a number of new areas in estrogen and antiestrogen pharmacology, saying "There never has been a more exciting time for estrogen research." Researchers now have a clearer image of the structural factors and molecular basis of estrogen and antiestrogen action, and estrogen receptor structure and function. She believes more selective estrogens in the future will be designed, having beneficial effects on blood vessels, bone, and brain and minimal harmful effects on the breast and uterus. The Kroc Foundation sponsored her lecture via an endowment to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

## 21st Annual Eeyore's Fun Run Saturday Dec. 5

You can run, walk or help while you have fun at the 21st Annual Eeyore's Fun Run on Saturday, **Dec. 5**. The run begins at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Fannin and Braeswood. UT-Houston and the Houston Texas Exes sponsor the event to raise money for scholarships for Houston area students who would like to attend schools in The University of Texas System. Volunteers are needed for health screenings, children's activities and race logistics. Individual runners or walkers are welcome, and departments are encouraged to sponsor corporate teams. For more information or to volunteer, contact **Amanda Calderon** at [acaldero@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu](mailto:acaldero@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu) or (713) 500-3035.



## Fitness Center Stocking Give-A-Way

The MS Fitness Center invites all members to join in the Reindeer Game, **November 30-December 12**. Win a HUGE stocking stuffed with more than \$75 worth of fitness gifts. Receive an entry every time you work out. Jingle Bell Run folks earn bonus points!

