



# Scoop



Friday, December 11, 1998

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

### EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Neuroscience Research Center's Fifth Annual Poster Session**, Sat., Dec. 12, 10 a.m.-12 noon, Leather Lounge.
- **Memorial Hermann Jingle Bell Run & Walk**, Sun., Dec. 13, 2:30 p.m., 776-5700.
- **UT Police Annual Christmas Drive** for children at HCPC and LBJ. Ongoing through Mon. Dec. 14. Drop off at G.102.
- **Dean's Holiday Reception**, Thurs., Dec. 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Leather Lounge.
- **Christmas Door Decoration Contest** sponsored by the ERC Committee. Judging will be held Thurs., Dec. 17. Winners will be announced during the Dean's Reception.
- **UTMS Fitness Center Food Drive**. Donations accepted through Thurs. Dec. 24.
- **KINDERfest 1999**, benefiting the K.I.N.D.E.R Clinic will be Thurs., Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Edwin Hornberg Conference Center. Contact **Elisabet Chow**, 704-0123.

### CLAMC REACCREDITED

**Dr. Bradford Goodwin**, Executive Director of CLAMC (Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care), and his staff were reaccredited for three years and congratulated for their "outstanding animal care and use program" recently by a visiting AAALAC (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care - International) site team. The three-day site visit was random and all research laboratories that use animals were subject to inspection. More than 600 institutions in 10 countries have earned accreditation, making it an international symbol of the highest standards toward animal care and use in science. The Medical School was originally accredited in 1978.

### UTmost Interest

**Liliana Rodriguez**, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, recently presented "All About Nopalito" at the annual meeting of Les Dames D'Escoffier, University of Houston Hilton. She discussed medicinal research on nopalito relating to diabetes as well as how to prepare the prickly pear cactus.



### THIRD ANNUAL UT-HOUSTON WATCH FORUM IS JANUARY 30

**Carolyn Keenan**, UT-H development board member, the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, the Office of Women's Health, and Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories are sponsoring the third annual Women And Their Choices in Health (WATCH) Forum **January 30, 1999**. The Saturday event will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Houston Sports Medicine and Performance Institute, 7400 Fannin at Old Spanish Trail. Speakers and their topics will include **Dr. Michele Curtis** on estrogen replacement therapy and alternatives, **Dr. Ellen Cohen** on domestic violence and sexual assault, **Dr. Carlos Moreno** on cardiovascular risk factors, **Katherine Medlin** on pre-pregnancy planning, and **Dusty Fleming** on genetic counseling. For further information, contact **Loretta Roy**, at 500-6394.



### DR. CASSCELLS USES SIMPLE BLOOD TEST FOR HEART DISEASE

**Dr. Ward Casscells**, Director, Division of Cardiology, says a screening blood test developed at the President Bush Center for Cardiovascular Health at Hermann Hospital "can detect 80 percent of all heart disease in women and can then be prevented with lifestyle changes." The blood test analyzes cholesterol, triglycerides, homocysteine, fibrinogen, and serum magnesium. He also commended his colleagues **Dr. K. Lance Gould** and his book *Heal Your Heart/How You Can Prevent or Reverse Heart Disease*, and **Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier's** research with glucose, insulin, and potassium in reducing heart problems by more than 50% in some patients after open heart surgery.

### RESCUE FOR THE FAILING HEART?

**Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier**, Cardiology, and his group recently published a paper "Unloaded heart in vivo replicates fetal gene expression of cardiac hypertrophy," in the November issue of *Nature Medicine*. "We're very excited about this concept. Initial results from heart failure patients treated by **Dr. O. Howard Frazier** at the Texas Heart Institute support this hypothesis," commented Dr. Taegtmeier. The reactivation of fetal genes, he said, forms the basis for an alternative concept to gene therapy or cardiac transplantation when patients with advanced heart failure are treated with a left ventricular assist device. Taegtmeier's findings were presented last month at the Scientific Session of the American Heart Association (AHA) by **Dr. Christophe Depre**, postdoctoral fellow of the American Philosophical Society. Coinvestigators were **Drs. Peter Davies**, Integrative Biology, and **Stan Stepkowski**, Surgery.



### ETHICAL VALUES CONFERENCE SET FOR BEIJING IN MAY '99

**Dr. Stanley Reiser**, Program on Humanities and Technology in Health Care, has announced a medical ethics conference, "Ethical Values Underlying the Professional Development of Physicians in China and the United States," to be held in Beijing, from **May 1 - 4, 1999**. Interested faculty are welcome to attend. **Five fellowships** under a nationwide program administered by UT-HHSC will be offered to full-time students in a healthcare discipline, to cover accommodations, registration, and travel expenses. The fellowship application deadline is **January 15, 1999**. For applications or questions, contact Reiser, phone 713-500-5080, UT-HHSC, Program on Humanities and Technology in Health Care, PO Box 20708, Houston, TX 77225. Reiser's e-mail address is <sreiser@heart.med.uth.tmc.edu>.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



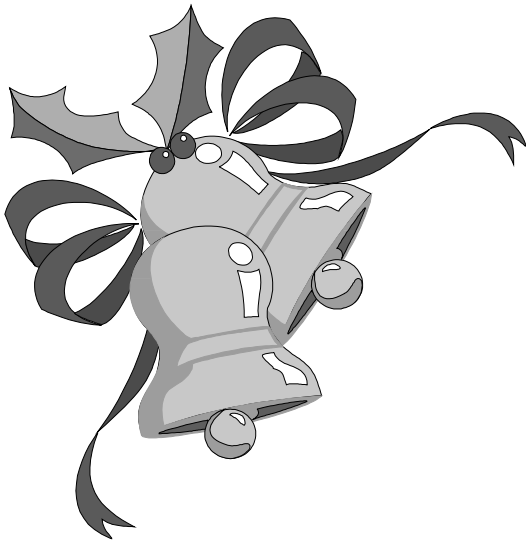
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# Dean's Holiday Message

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

This has been a year to remember and one that tells a revealing story of the growth and development of this Medical School. During this very month one of our faculty has been awarded a Nobel Prize in Medicine. Earlier in the year, one of our 1976 graduates became the first woman in the nation to hold the office of President of the American Medical Association. The message is clear, we all have much to be proud of for the coming new year.

As the School grows and accomplishes great things, each of you can take great pride in your contribution to an enterprise that is moving forward and gaining worldwide recognition. As Dean, I extend my personal appreciation to each of you for what you bring to this School each day. Your talents and your time make a difference.

Donna and I extend our best wishes to your families for this holiday season and welcome the new year along with you. As in years past, I'm printing this holiday message in *Scoop* so the money saved on cards can be donated to Goodfellows and the Adopt-A-Family program at LBJ Hospital.

Wishing you a happy holidays and productive New Year.

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.  
Dean

