



Scoop



Skeleton Holiday, Fri., July 3

Friday, June 26, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Attention MS IV faculty:** Fourth year students will begin the July month on July 2.
- **Committee on the Status of Women** nominations for '98-'99 Distinguished Professional Woman Award due July 6. Send to **Debbie Todd, UCT 600.**

UTmost Interest

Dr. Stanford Goldman, Chair, Radiology, recently was asked to serve as Consulting Editor for *Urology*...**Dr. Larry Kramer**, Radiology, was honored for his exhibit entitled "Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the Evaluation and Treatment of Epilepsy" at the American Society of Neuroradiology 36th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia...**Dr. Barbara Murray**, Professor and Director, Division of Infectious Diseases,

Co-director, Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Pathogens, attended a think-tank organized

by The Wellcome Trust and Burroughs Wellcome Fund entitled "A Research Agenda for Prevention, Treatment, and Control of Microbial Diseases in the Developing World" in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam...**Dr. John H. Byrne**, Chair, Neurobiology and Anatomy, as well as Director, Neuroscience Research Center and the W. M. Keck Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, spoke at Houston's Rotary Club on "Memory-How It Works"...**Dr. Michael Mauk**, Neurobiology, presented a talk on "Information Processing in the Cerebellum" at the University of Wales in Cardiff, United Kingdom and also spoke in Berlin...**Dr. Zehava Gottesfeld**, Neurobiology, gave a talk on "Alcohol and Hormones" at the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism in Copenhagen...**Colleen O'Brien**, *Scoop* Editor, representing the Medical School, with **Melanie Levine**, Business Development Specialist, University Care Plus (UCP), attended the Society of Women Engineers/1998 National Convention & Student Conference. "Diversity/look how far we've come" was the conference's central theme at the George R. Brown Convention Center.



THIS 4TH OF JULY - PLAY IT SAFE

Dr. Norberto Adame, Director of Emergency Medicine, says this July 4th, "Don't try to light the barbecue with gasoline. Our hospital emergency room is filled with at least a 20% increase in burn victims over the holiday." If you do have a burn accident from firecrackers, sparklers, or the barbecue pit, Adame urges that you immediately apply ice. Remember, matches and lighters can be deadly in a child's hands. If the burn is bigger than the palm of your hand, keep the burn dressed, after cooling for five minutes in cool water, apply bacitracin or neosporin, and see a doctor immediately. The key is to keep the burn cool and covered. Advil or Tylenol can be taken as prescribed for pain. "Sometimes unfortunately, kids driving with the top down will have a lit firecracker thrown in

their car. These accidents are the really nasty ones," says Adame. He also warned that some holiday accidents take place at night, when people are more tired or distracted. So a good rule of thumb, when starting a charcoal fire, is to apply the starter fluid to the cold charcoal briquets, then light them. Don't add fluid to a lit fire. Don't leave a hot grill unattended. Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles; wear clothes with a short or tight-fitting sleeve when out cooking. Accidents with flammable materials can cause clothing to catch on fire. If this happens to you, stop where you are, drop to the ground, and roll over and over to smother the flames. Cover your face with your hands to protect it, as well as your throat and lungs, from burns. If someone else's clothes are on fire, push the person to the ground and roll them over and over; smother the flames with a blanket, a rug or a coat if available.

SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE SESSIONS:

For the 1999 Insurance Year Enrollment, Medical School employees' questions regarding insurance coverage can be answered on the following dates: **Mon., June 29th**, Medical School, 2.006, 12-1 p.m.; **Mon., July 6th**, Medical School, 2.006, 12-1 p.m.



LAWN SAFETY RULES



information, call **Tamara Nesser**, 500-8403.

Dr. Red Duke's Health Report will feature Mower Safety, Edgers, and Lawn Poisons. He can be seen on Channel 13 on Sundays, between 7 - 9 a.m. For

ANNUAL FACULTY ADDRESS AVAILABLE IN G.004

Dean Max Buja's Annual Faculty Meeting address, as a white paper in booklet form, is now available in the Office of Community Affairs, G.004. It can also be read via the Medical School's home page at: <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>> then click on Dean's Documents. A video copy of the meeting is available in the LRC.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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Still Rolling With a New Twist - Computer Data Workstations

University Clinical Research Center

What's free and available to all UT investigators who are conducting investigator-initiated clinical research? It offers use of onsite computer workstations, peripherals, application development, and computer database design consultation. Give up? The Computer Data Management and Analysis System (CDMAS) is available to investigators who are conducting approved research studies at the University Clinical Research Center (UCRC). Research data can be stored on the CDMAS computer network server that is secure from unauthorized access and computer viruses.

Established in 1986, the UCRC this past year has also set up a computer facility. **Charles Forbes** is on board as Systems Manager, and **Ann Ince** serves as Administrative Manager. Biostatistical support is also available for clinical investigators from the UCRC Biostatistician.

The computer center is located on the 6th floor, room 654, of the Robertson Pavilion of Hermann Hospital. It's been "manna from heaven," explains **Dr. Staley Brod**, Neurology, referring to Forbes's assistance. Brod is studying the effects of interferon-alpha in patients with multiple sclerosis or diabetes. "Before, the UCRC had no way to assist investigators in the computerization of data management," explained Forbes, who customizes each application for each investigator. He handles diverse electronic application tasks, from dealing with software companies, to creating databases which will allow investigators to perform complex queries.

For instance, **Dr. Pat Liehr**, School of Nursing, uses specialized equipment which interfaces with the CDMAS computers to download patients' blood pressure data. Industry-initiated research can also utilize UCRC's services but will pay a fee. The payoff for all investigators is more efficient, organized, and effective clinical trials. There are approximately 75 NIH-funded Clinical Research Centers nationwide. Forbes is in contact with other Systems Managers by e-mail, and information on the latest computer technology is freely shared among managers. If an investigator has a problem or a need that stumps Forbes, he is in immediate contact with a network of consulting peers.

One of the UCRC studies presently being done is by **Drs. Jerry Wolinsky and John Lindsey**, Neurology, who are conducting trials of multiple sclerosis drugs. **Dr. Dana Hardin**, Pediatrics/Endocrine, is examining two-patient populations. She is looking at the mechanisms of diabetes in cystic fibrosis (CF) patients, growth hormone treatment, malnourishment, and metabolic effects of pregnancy in CF. She is also studying mechanisms of insulin secretion in AIDS patients, and the effect of protease inhibitors on body protein and lean-body mass in AIDS children. **Dr. John Reveille**, Rheumatology, is conducting outcome studies in patients with lupus or scleroderma. He is also considering treatment issues in patients with AIDS-related diffuse infiltrating lymphocytosis syndrome (DILS). **Dr. Pablo Okhuysen**, Infectious Diseases, is studying the least-infective dose of *Cryptosporidium parvum*, a common parasite which causes diarrhea, in drinking water. The sponsor is the Environmental Protection Agency. Investigators also include **Dr. Diana Milewicz**, Genetics, who is looking at the genetic basis of aortic and thoracic aneurysms, using family members of subjects with aneurysms. **Dr. Andrij Holian**, Pulmonary, has an ongoing project to explore in test tubes how lung cells react to foreign irritants. He is concentrating on the mechanisms of fibrosis caused by exposure to silica and asbestos. In the center, lung cells are collected from normal volunteers during a bronchoscopy procedure.

For questions about the UT-Houston UCRC, call 704-4195, drop by, or send e-mail to aince@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu, or cforbes@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu. The UCRC's web address is: http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/uth_orgs/crc/.

Summer Enrichment Program Mentors 15 Students

Twelve pre-medical and three pre-nursing students are winding up a five-week Summer Enrichment Program at the Medical School, having been welcomed by **Drs. Patricia Butler, Andrew Harper** and **Gwen Sherwood**. They have been focusing on clinical preceptorships sponsored by **Drs. Joe Bedford, Mark Farnie, Francisco Fuentes, Johnnie Frazier, Carlos Herrera, Pedro Mancias, John Riggs, Kevin Smith, Kim Smith** and **Robin Williams**. They also immersed themselves in the physiology, anatomy, metabolism and nutrition of a marathon runner. **Drs. Norman Weisbrodt, Ron Philo, Stanley Schultz, Marilyn Edwards** and **Frank Booth** organized the marathon runner nutrition analysis. Providing seminars on public health aspects of cardiovascular fitness have been: **Drs. John Ribble, Steven Kelder, Darwin Labarthe, Guy Parcel, and Wendell Taylor**. Students learned interview skills and health care reform from **Drs. Robert Williams** and **Carlos Herrera**. **Brenda Bassham** led a study skills program and second-year medical students **Carlos Morales, Brad Ryan, and Juan Carlos Valdez** assisted as facilitators and tutors.

