



Scoop



Friday, August 14, 1998

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

PLAQUES AWARDED FOR WEBBER PRIZES

On Friday, August 7, in the Leather Lounge, a closing ceremony for the 10-week 1998 UT-Houston Summer Research Program was held. **Dana Farver**, Program Coordinator, outlined several facts to the audience, including:

- The Medical School sponsored 74 undergraduates from 44 universities nation-wide.
- The students did research with UT-Houston faculty members from the Medical School, School of Public Health, School of Nursing, and the Dental Branch.
- UT-Houston first-year medical students (31) were among the participants.



Blankenship (left), Menon, and Collins

Plaques to the three 1998 winners of the Webber Prize for Student Research, all UT medical students, were presented by **Mr. Charles Webber**, son of the late **Dean C. Frank Webber**. The winners:

- First-place/Clinical Research: **Sindhu Menon**, Menon's mentor, **Dr. Lewis Morgenstern**, Neurology;
 - First-place tie/Basic Sciences Research: **Will Blankenship** and **Thomas Collins**, their mentor, **Dr. David Mercer**, General Surgery.
- Dr. Gil Castro**, HSC Assistant Vice President of the Office of Education Access and Equity, made the closing remarks. His office oversees the program.



ASTHMA PATIENTS NEEDED FOR EIGHT-WEEK STUDY

If you are 12 or older, have mild to moderate asthma, are allergic to ragweed, meet specific medication requirements, then you may qualify for free testing, medications, and medical exam. Subjects who complete the study are also given the option to be enrolled in the *Airwatch* monitoring system for one year. Treatment requires five office visits over approximately eight weeks. Visits will be approximately one hour or less, at the Student Health Services. Compensation is available and the study is under the direction of **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, Director of the Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Medical School. For more information, contact **Gloria Morris**, 500-6542.

September 16th

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Wednesday, September 16, 11 a.m.-2 p.m, mark your calendars. Free lunch, music by **James McKeehan** and **Kalli Roan**, outside on Webber Plaza and your UT-H Employee Badge is your ticket. In case of rain, the event will be held in the Leather Lounge. It's sponsored by the Medical School departments and the Employee Relations Committee (ERC).



Calendar Week of

August 14-21

14 TODAY - Memorial Service for Dr. Joseph Gabel, 4 p.m., Hermann Hospital's Dunn Chapel. Reception following, Medical School's Fifth Floor Gallery.

14 Deadline TODAY - Logo Contest Entries for Employee Relations Committee. Contact **S. Stephenson**, 500-7627.

15, 16 First-Year Medical Student Retreat.

17 First & Second-Year Medical Students, classes begin.

19, 20 RPR/IDX Town Hall meetings initiative status update, noon - 1 p.m. on the 19th, 2.103; 4-5 p.m. on the 20th, 3.001.

20 Faculty Promotion and Tenure Process Presentation, Session III, G.018, 8-10 a.m., contact Mary Cole, 500-5100.

UTmost Interest

Dr. David S. Loose Mitchell, Associate Professor, Integrative Biology, Pharmacology and Physiology, received the Walter M. Kirkendall Award for Scientist Educator of the Year from the American Heart Association in Houston...**Dr. Grant C. Fowler**, Program Director, UT Family Practice Residency Program, has been elected to serve a two-year term as Member-at-Large of the Association of Family Practice Residency Directors (AFPRD) in Kansas City...**Dr. Frank C. Arnett**, Professor and Director, Division of Rheumatology, was awarded the Mark Flapan Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scleroderma Foundation Annual Conference in Houston...**Dr. Igor Gregoric**, Assistant Professor of Surgery, joined the Medical School faculty; his background is in general surgery training at UT and cardiothoracic training at the Texas Heart Institute/St. Luke's Hospital.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

DR. JON E. TYSON NAMED POPULATION HEALTH DIRECTOR

Dr. Jon E. Tyson, the first holder of the Michelle Bain Distinguished Professorship in Medicine and Public Health at the Medical School, is on board as Director of the new Center for Population Health and Evidence-Based Medicine.

Tyson, who is a professor in pediatrics and medicine at the Medical School and a professor of epidemiology at the School of Public Health (SPH), comes to UT-Houston after more than 20 years at UT Southwestern, where he had appointments in pediatrics as well as obstetrics and gynecology. His pediatric training is as a neonatologist.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Tyson was graduated from Rice University before earning his M.D. degree from Tulane University School of Medicine and his M.P.H. from the UT-Houston SPH. Watch *Scoop* for future stories about Dr. Tyson's programs.



Dr. Jon E. Tyson

NATIONAL SPEAKER PRAISES LOCAL EFFORTS AT PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS

Dr. Perri Klass, Medical Director for the national *Reach Out and Read* Program, presented a very special Pediatric Grand Rounds on July 28. The program, which included a workshop, supported the local partnership between the UT-Houston Department of Pediatrics and Enron to improve literacy for 30,000 Houston-area pre-school age children over the next three years. This coming year, **Clyde Drexler**, Channels 11 (KHOU) & 13 (KPRC), and Baylor College of Medicine, will become additional partners.

"Start exposing children to books at an early age," says Klass, who is also an assistant pediatrics professor at the Boston Medical Center. "Yes, big, thick, photo books a six-month old can chew on and turn upside down are just fine for starters."

The *Reach Out and Read* initiative calls for UT doctors and nurse practitioners to give free books that are age and culturally appropriate to their pre-school age patients at every well-child checkup. Volunteer readers reach out to these children while their parents are waiting for a checkup or regular doctor's visit. Because there are nine to ten visits to the pediatrician before the age of six, by kindergarten the child will have several books. At \$2.50 a book, the investment is minimal. The plan encourages parents to read to their children and to have pediatricians actively involved in the intellectual health of a child as well as the physical well-being. (Enron's "Prescription for Reading, a *Reach Out & Read* Program," provides books to children ages six months to five years at UT-H's six pediatric clinics. (See *Scoop* 7/24/98 and 5/29/98).

Klass is the writer of several books, short stories, and essays, including the novel, *Other Women's Children*, and *Baby Doctor: A Pediatrician's Training*. In introducing her, **Dr. Michael Grady**, Chief Resident, Pediatrics, said that Enron is helping to put literacy into pediatric programs and that **Paige Atkinson**, a nurse practitioner, piloted the reading effort at UT Children's Clinic in Spring Branch during the last year. Started in Boston 10 years ago, the *Reach Out and Read* program's goal is that every child will be read to regularly by the year 2000 and literacy will become a family activity.



The UT Children's Clinic in Spring Branch has "energy and creativity" in their literacy program that is "really overwhelming and inspiring," according to Klass. "We know this program works. When parents call this particular pediatric clinic, they're not interested in whether their primary care physician is in. All they want to know is whether the reading man is there. And the children inevitably ask, 'Are you going to give me a book today,?'" she concluded.