



Scoop



Friday, January 1, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **TMC Buckaroo Ball**, proceeds go to medical scholarships, cocktail reception, dinner buffet, live band and dancing, \$50, Thurs., **Jan. 14**, 7-11 p.m., Hornberger Center, call **Patty Riddlebarger**, 713-704-1520.
- **Ribble Lectureship, Dr. Lucian Leape**, Harvard School of Public Health, "Error in Medicine," Wed., **Jan. 20**, noon, 3.001.
- **James E. Eastham**, Sr. VP, CEO, Hermann, "Hermann Hospital," Tues., **Jan. 12**, 8 a.m., 2.135.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lynn Medeiors, Senior Staff Assistant in Internal Medicine's Division of Cardiology, was named the 1998 Employee of the Year December 17 at the Dean's Holiday Reception when **Dr. Max Buja** presented her with a plaque and a desk clock. Medeiors, the June Employee of the Month, was described by her nominator as having an outstanding work attitude and a "can do" spirit, which is the foundation for her actions. She is the staff support for three physicians and still asks for special assignments. In the division, Medeiors is the computer expert and serves as the primary information provider to most employees for computer-related questions. She always takes the time to help teach someone a new technique regarding software application. This team-building effort has strengthened the entire support staff. In addition to her outstanding performance as support staff, she handles patient and other outside customer needs at the same level. More than once she has gone beyond the call of duty to help a patient with a severe health problem.



Lynn Medeiors

CHRISTMAS DOOR WINNERS

The winners of the Christmas Door Decorating Contest are: first place, **Carla Stiggers**/Dermatology; second place, **Lori Eberly**/Fitness Center; third place, **Francis Ellis/Riketa Chartion**/Emergency Medicine; and fourth place, **Carin Hagberg**/Anesthesiology. Congratulations!

ONE CARE CEASES OPERATIONS TODAY, JANUARY 1

OneCare, a physician network, will cease operations as of today, **January 1, 1999**. "This has been a difficult, lengthy and confusing process for those affected," stated **Ed Fullerton**, Benefits Manager (see story in *Scoop*, 7/10/98). The OneCare dissolution will not effect UT-Houston employees or retirees or their dependents who participate in the Prudential HealthCare HMO Plan or the UT Select Plan. The impact on those covered by Point-of-Service (Dual Option) will be minimal. Some points to consider include:



ists.

- University Care Plus (UCP) has contracted all UT-Houston physicians and a large number of Houston area PCPs who are able to refer to UT-Houston specialists.
- Access to M.D. Anderson and UTMB is available with precertification. If you currently have a UT primary care physician or one who is contracted with UCP, no further action from you is required.
- Most of the other OneCare PCPs not joining UCP have realigned with other physician networks who have NYLCARE contracts and remain available to you and your dependents without any action needed on your part.
- If you have a PCP who will no longer be seeing NYLCARE patients, you will be notified by NYLCARE in writing of your need to select another PCP.

Those UT employees who need to, may want to select a new PCP by calling NYLCARE customer service at 713-993-9982. After the recording starts, press 1 and after the options start, press 5 to reach a customer service representative. Fullerton advises that if you elect to change your PCP, to be sure to make a written request for your medical records to be transferred from your previous PCP or specialist. Generally, your new PCP selection becomes effective the first of the following month. A current directory from NYLCARE is not available. The UT System Employee Group Insurance web site is <<http://www.utsystem.edu/egi>>. It indicates current University Care Plus PCPs and specialists. For questions, please contact a Payroll & Benefits representative at 713-500-3935. "We are here to help," emphasized Fullerton.

STREET CLOSING - On Mon., **Jan. 4** through Thurs., **Jan. 14**, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 5 a.m., westbound Holcombe Blvd. east of Fannin will be widened at the median. For more information contact **Steve Schultz**, Texas Children's, 713-770-2855.

DUNN FOUNDATION FUNDS \$2.5 MILLION FOR BURN CENTER



Dr. Donald Parks

Dr. Donald H. Parks, the Dr. Thomas D. Cronin Chair in Plastic Surgery and Director of the Hermann Burn Center, has been notified that the Board of Trustees of the John S. Dunn Research Foundation approved in late November a grant request of \$2.5 million to support the construction of a new, state-of-the-art Burn Center on Jones Pavilion's third floor. The project is estimated to begin in October 1999. Over the years the Dunn Foundation has provided grants totaling approximately \$450,000 to the Burn Center along with generous gifts to construct Hermann's Inter-Faith Chapel and support Life Flight operations and the heliport (to name a few).

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., Assistant Dean
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: cobrien@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu
FAX: (713) 500-0597

E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>

Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education





APPLYING NOBEL DISCOVERIES TO MEDICAL AND SPACE NEEDS

The Nobel Prize-winning discovery by **Dr. Ferid Murad** of nitric oxide (NO), as a potent short-acting relaxer of blood vessels produced by the body under a variety of conditions, has launched numerous important areas of novel research. One such area is septic shock, or profoundly low blood pressure from overwhelming infection, which has a survival rate of only 50 percent. **Dr. Robert F. Lodato**, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and his coworkers have shown that NO is a major mediator of septic shock. This finding has launched a series of international clinical trials to more precisely define the role of

NO in septic shock patients with the hope of providing novel therapies for this lethal disorder.

Because of his expertise in hypotension in critically ill patients, NASA's Cardiovascular Lab has invited Lodato to join their efforts to study the hypotension that occurs in many healthy astronauts on their return to gravity from prolonged space flight. With NASA at Cape Kennedy, Lodato studied **Senator John Glenn** upon landing. It may turn out that critically ill patients and healthy astronauts have something in common. That something may be nitric oxide.

It is also worth noting that much of what we know about NO can be credited in large part to the important contributions of animals in research. These silent heroes have helped pioneer much of our understanding of NO to date and continue to make possible the answers to important medical findings to come.



- B. Boutwell

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL SE CME PROGRAMS



Dr. Richard Castriotta

The Memorial Hospital Southeast medical staff has invited The University of Texas-Houston Medical School Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) to present and jointly sponsor CME programs at the hospital in 1999.

Dr. Richard Castriotta, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, will present on "Ethics" **January 6**, and **Dr. Charles Cox**, Pediatric Surgery, will present the first in a series on trauma **January 13**. The programs are 12:30-

1:30 p.m. at the hospital. "Each presentation provides one hour of CME credit for those physicians in attendance," commented **Linda Hoffman**, MPH, RN, the Medical School's CME director.



Dr. Charles Cox

GRANT FORMS-ON-WEB TRAINING JAN. 12

Frank Velasquez and team members, Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), will be instructing those interested in grabbing grant information off the web, including templates, and translating those designs into topnotch grant proposal submittals. Topics to be covered in the first class include downloading templates from the UT-HHSC website, viewing toolbars, tabbing through the downloaded template, troubleshooting, previewing, printing, and saving a document. Other topics to be covered in the second class include customization of the NIH PHS 398 Face Page, drop down features, downloading files from the TRAM website, changing default tests, creating drop down boxes, changing protected fields and changing unprotected fields, problems encountered with print features, and adjustment highlights (6 font to 8 font). Classes are on Tues., **Jan. 12**, 9 - 10 a.m. and 10 - 11 a.m., JFB G.702. Seating is limited to fourteen. To reserve your seat, call the OSP at 500-5847.

SMOKERS "SAVE MONEY" CLASS JAN. 4

Keep your New Year's resolution with the UT Health Services "Save Money Class." A "Take Back Control of Your Life! Freedom from Nicotine" program will begin Mon., **Jan. 4** from noon-1 p.m., JFB, Rm. G.714. No need to register, just show up. Cost is free. Attendees pay \$25 at the first class and receive a full refund just by attending all four sessions. Remaining classes are Wed., **Jan. 6**, Mon., **Jan. 11**, and Wed., **Jan. 13**. For information, call 713-500-3242.



COMMIT TO BE FIT

The UTMS Fitness Center invites all members to participate in "Commit To Be Fit In 1999" - Fitness and Wellness Program. A variety of activities will be provided throughout the month, including a complimentary one month membership for all NON-MEMBERS to the Fitness Center including aerobics classes. A blood pressure screening will be held Tues., **Jan. 13**, 9 - 11 a.m. in the Leather Lounge (free bagels for all participants). In the Fitness Center, alternative exercise classes will include a Tai Chi demonstration on Thurs., **Jan. 14**, noon - 1 p.m., and a Yoga demonstration, Wed., **Jan. 20**, noon - 1p.m. A lunch and learn seminar, "How Food Effects Your Mental State," is scheduled for Wed., **Jan. 27**, noon - 1p.m. Call The Fitness Center for more information, 713-500-5044.

GRANTS SEMINAR JAN. 15

The Office of Research Services (ORS) along with **Dr. John Grabowski**, Director, Substance Abuse Research Center, will offer a seminar entitled "A Common Sense Approach to Grant Getting" to UT-Houston faculty, students, and administration. The seminar is scheduled for Thurs., **Jan. 14**, from 8:30 a.m. - noon, Dental Branch, Room 207, and in the same place on Fri., **Jan. 15**, there will be a Mock Review from 8:30-10:30 a.m. This is not a 'grant writing' workshop. It is a basic, step-by-step approach for academic researchers to plan their way to successful and independent grant getting. Using the NIH as a model, researchers are shown the process necessary to put together a winning proposal. Register by e-mail <research@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu> or register online at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/research_acad_aff/ors/ggsreg.htm>.