



Scoop



Friday, January 29, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Health Sciences Student Forum** with **Dr. deWitt Baldwin**, Psychiatry, University of Nevada, on "An Interdisciplinary Approach to Health Care," **TODAY, Fri., Jan. 29**, noon-1:30 p.m., Dental Branch, Rm. 139.
- **MSRDP Annual Meeting**, all faculty members, **Wed., Feb. 3**, 4 p.m., 3.001.
- **Third Annual Texas Symposium in Obstetric and Gynecologic Ultrasound**, **Feb. 5-7**, The Omni Hotel, call 713-500-5128.
- **Seminars in Reproductive Biology**, **Dr. James Cross**, "Genetic Analysis of Placental Development in Mice," **Feb. 9**, noon, 3.301 (in green section).
- **Dean's Lecturer**, **Dr. Michael J. Welsh**, "From Cystic Fibrosis to CFTR and Back," **Wed., Feb. 10**, 4 p.m., 3.001.
- **Valentine's Day Sale**, ERC-sponsored, **Thurs., Feb. 11**, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., **Fri., Feb. 12**, 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m., Leather Lounge.
- **Go Texan Day**, Frito Pie Sale, **Fri., Feb. 12**, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Webber Plaza.

FYI - Check out the latest *UCP (University Care Plus) Update* newsletter, featuring the latest treatments in cardiology. The newsletter is located in the Leather Lounge, Fannin Entrance, or on the web at <<http://www.ucplus.org>>.

SCHOLAR AWARD SET

The President's Scholar Award will be received by **Dr. John H. Byrne**, professor and chair of Neurobiology and Anatomy and director of the Neuroscience Research Center, (see *Scoop* photo, back page). The bestowment will take place **March 30** in the School of Public Health Auditorium, during the 4 p.m. Honors Convocation.

Don't Forget - WATCH Forum this weekend, Saturday, **Jan. 30**, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Houston Sports Medicine and Performance Institute, 7400 Fannin (at Old Spanish Trail), Suite 600. Free covered parking, casual dress. Call 713-500-6394.

MCNEESE NAMED DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS FOR UTMB



Dr. Margaret McNeese

Dr. Margaret C. McNeese, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, has been named UTMB's Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus for 1999, says **Dr. John Stobo**, president of The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus is selected by peers on the basis of contributions to the medical profession and health care delivery, support of the high standards of excellence within the profession and the prestige reflected upon her alma mater, The University of Texas Medical Branch. Dr. McNeese's award will be formally conferred at UTMB's commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 22.

HARVARD'S JOHN D. MACARTHUR PROFESSOR AT SPH

Dr. Joseph Newhouse, the John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Division of Health Policy Research and Education, Harvard University, will be speaking on "Medicare: Future Issues" from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday, **February 5**, at the School of Public Health Auditorium. Dr. Newhouse, one of the most prominent health economists in the world, directed the RAND Health Insurance Experiment and is vice-chair of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. Call **Luisa Franzini**, 713-500-9487, for information. Lunch will be served to the first 100 attendees.

PRESIDENT, ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION, TO SPEAK

The Third Roger J. Bulger Lecture Series, "The Challenges for Health and Health Care in the 21st Century," will feature **Dr. Steven A. Schroeder**, president, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey, on Friday, **February 12**, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., School of Public Health Auditorium, 1200 Herman Pressler Drive. There will be a reception following the lecture in Room 102 B of the UT School of Public Health. For further information, call 713-500-9488.



Dr. Steven Schroeder

ELDER CARE AND CHILD REARING IS FOCUS IN SEMINARS

Work/Life seminars are now in progress and are the culmination of collaborative efforts between the Employee Relations Committee and the Work/Life Program (part of the UT Employee Assistance Programs). **Jo Greathouse**, Work/Life Coordinator, UT-HHSC, with a master's degree in psychology from the University of Houston - Clear Lake, hopes that participants will walk away with practical tools for achieving a sense of their own work/life balance. Remaining Work/Life sessions, from noon-1:00 p.m., Dental Branch, Room 446, include: **Feb. 18**, "Medical Aspects of End of Life," **March 18**, "End of life Issues," **April 15**, "Planning for a Funeral," **May 20**, "Legal issues Following Death," and **June 17**, "Grief and Bereavement." Also, from noon to 1 p.m., MSI auditorium, will be: **March 4**, "Reaching Balance with Your Child's Activities," **April 1**, "Blending Families," and **May 6**, "Communicating Effectively with Your Children." For further information, call 713-500-3013.

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



FITNESS CENTER INTRODUCES TAI CHI

Due to high interest from the demonstration class, the Medical School Fitness Center is offering a Tai-Chi class from 12 noon until 1 p.m. on Thursdays starting **February 4** in the MSB penthouse gym. Membership is required to participate (\$5/month) and the course fee is \$10. The class will be taught by **Nevil Taylor**, a certified Chin Woo Federation Tai Chi instructor and competition medalist. Beginners are welcome. Contact the Fitness Center front desk for further information at 500-5044.



HAM-TMC LIBRARY OFFERS SCIENCE DIRECT

ScienceDirect is a Web database for scientific research that contains the full text of more than 1,000 Elsevier Science journals in the life, physical, medical, technical, and social sciences available through the Internet. The journals in *ScienceDirect* are arranged under convenient subject areas for topical navigation. Each subject category expands to many additional sub-categories giving users browsable subject access to the article collection.

The HAM-TMC Library has a free "group-wide" trial of this new service until **February 15, 1999**. Access the link from the Library home page (www.library.tmc.edu). The Library is considering a subscription to *ScienceDirect*, as part of its goal to expand its collection of online, full-text journals. This means that articles can be located on your PC, downloaded, and printed -- without ever having to physically locate and photocopy the articles! (Usually articles from 1995 to the present are available.) Please send any feedback about *ScienceDirect* to **Dawn Bick**, <dawnb@library.tmc.edu>.

TIRR SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS

Ashley Smith was appointed to President of TIRR Systems, and **John Kajander** to Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. TIRR (The Institute of Rehabilitation & Research) Systems companies include TIRR and TIRR LifeBridge as well as TIRR Rehabilitation Centers.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Richard J. Andrassy, A.G. McNeese Professor and Chairman, Surgery, was recently the John Schullinger Visiting Professor in Surgical Oncology at Babies & Children's Hospital, Columbia/Presbyterian Hospital in New York City...**Dr. Stephen L. Mills**, Ophthalmology and Visual Science, received a \$453,415 NEI (National Eye Institute) grant, "Connectivity Pattern of Retinal Bipolar Cells," to be distributed over a period of four years...**Dr. Steven H.**

DeVries, Ophthalmology and Visual Science, also received a grant from the NEI in the amount of \$570,903, for his research, "Function of Basal Synapses at Mammalian Photoreceptors," to be paid over a five year period...**Dr. Irma Gigli** is the new Associate Director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases (IMM), and **Dr. Stanley Schultz** is the new vice-chair for Integrative Biology and Pharmacology.



MUSEUM'S BRAIN BEE

UT-HHSC, along with the Museum of Health & Medical Science, will be co-hosting the first national *Brain Bee*, Saturday, **February 6**, 1-4 p.m. The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and the Society for Neuroscience piloted the *Brain Bee* program in Maryland last year. It was such a success that there are now 25 regional contests with the high school winner of each region advancing to the national competition in Washington, D.C., during Brain Awareness Week, **March 15-22**. Call **Zizi Asfour** at 713-521-1515, ext.123, for information.



Good Health

EXERCISES FOR THE DESK BOUND

So how do those of us who hunch over our steering wheels and computer keyboards get fit? That was the focus for **Dr. Charlotte (Barney) Sanborn**, Center for Research on Women's Health, Texas Woman's University, Thursday, Jan. 21, at the "Health For the Professional Woman" forum hosted by the the Medical School's AWF (Association for Women Faculty). She outlined exercises for the desk bound, which included two time-honored ergonomic techniques. To relieve upper back and shoulder tension, lift hands to the shoulders. Keep elbows down as you push shoulders back with your arms. Hold this position for 15 seconds. Repeat 3 times. To relax shoulder, back and hip muscles, begin by placing your palms on your lower back in a standing or sitting position. Stretch back your upper body. Hold this position for 5 seconds. Repeat 3 times. Viola! You are on your way!



NEURAL NETWORKS - FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET?

Look Mom! Up in the air. It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a neural synapse relay! The "Neuroscientist for a Day" program with about 40 fourth graders from River Oaks Elementary School was a big hit, Friday, Jan. 22. Teachers from the department of Neurobiology & Anatomy introduced students to the nervous



Dr. Jack Byrne, chairman, Neurobiology and Anatomy, with the curious.

system, human, baboon and monkey brains, and the speed of neurons. Researchers discussed how information from the eyes is processed in the visual brain and how the eye collects information on pat-

terns of light from objects in the visual scene. The eye then sends that information to the brain, where the actual 'seeing' is done. In lay language the kids were shown how the normal visual brain works and what happens when the eye or brain is injured or in disease such as glaucoma.

Commented **Dr. Jack Crawford**, Ophthalmology and Visual Science, "Science education must begin early in the education process and continue throughout life if we are to have a population able to judge the merits of biomedical science for society and their own well-being. As a neuroscientist and vision researcher, I think it very important for the UT-HHSC to have a vigorous community outreach and education program, where we take every opportunity to keep the public informed about our research activities and new developments in biomedicine."

FYI - The free Mini Rodeo at the M lot across from the Hornberger Conference Center last Sat., Jan. 23 drew a crowd of 1,500 - 1,700 Texas Medical Center folks.