



# Scoop



Great American Smoke-Out, Thurs., Nov. 18, Leather Lounge

Friday, November 12, 1999

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

### EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Assoc. for Women Faculty Program**, Tues., Nov. 16, noon, **Dr. Paula O'Neil**, "Planning for the Stages of a Successful Academic Career for Beginning, Mid, and Senior Level Faculty," MSB 2.135.
- **Free Blood Glucose Screening**, Tues., Nov. 16, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Leather Lounge.
- **The Healing Journey Health Fair**, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thurs., **Nov. 18**, Hermann Pavilion. For information, call 713-704-4899.
- **Dean's Lecturer, Nobel laureate Dr. Ferid Murad**, "Cellular Signaling with Nitric Oxide," Tues., **Dec. 7**, 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

### FACULTY SOUGHT FOR LONDON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Application deadline for in-residence faculty to live in the Kensington area of London, as part of the "UT-Houston Comparative Health Care Internship Program" for 10 UT-HHSC students, for two weeks this coming summer is **January 31, 2000**. Faculty receive airfare and lodging. Questions, call 713/500-5170 or email <Patricia.E.Caver@uth.tmc.edu>.

### UTmost Interest

**Ira Berezowsky**, currently DMO, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, has been named interim business manager, Physician Business Services...**Dr. John Culberson**, Family Practice and Community Medicine, assisted **Bill Brenza**, an Exxon "Wellness Day" coordinator, for the company's annual "Wellness Day," downtown Houston, Nov. 5, with talks on fitness and nutrition, to several hundred Exxon employees...*Peripheral Nerve Blocks, A Color Atlas*, the newest addition to faculty text books in the Medical School's Leather Lounge glass cases, was edited by **Dr. Jacques E. Chelly**, professor and Director of Clinical Research in Anesthesiology...**Dr. Bruce Barron**, Radiology, won honorable mention for his "Patterns and Pitfalls of PET Imaging of Lung Cancer: A Pictorial Essay," at the Society of Nuclear Medicine's 46th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles.

### DR. SAFI TO ADDRESS MILLENNIUM AUDIENCE ON ANEURYSMS

**Dr. Hazim J. Safi**, professor and chairman of the new Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, has been selected a keynote speaker for a special international symposium and workshop sponsored by The Royal College of Surgeons of England entitled "The Complex Aneurysm." The program is the first in a series of masterclasses offered by The Royal College of Surgeons and will be held **Jan. 27-28, 2000** in London. Safi, a member of this prestigious organization, will address thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysm repair. **Dr. John Robbs**, from the University of Natal Hospital in Durban, South Africa, will deliver a millennium lecture on complex aneurysms, covering Takayasu's Disease and HIV. Safi, who joined the UT-Houston Medical School and Memorial Hermann Hospital this past September, is recognized as one of the leading vascular surgeons in the world. (see *Scoop* 6/4/99).



**Dr. Hazim Safi**

### MEDICAL SCHOOL CAFETERIA TO CLOSE FOR REMODELING

Due to remodeling, the UT-HHSC Auxiliary Enterprises announces the temporary closing of the UT-Houston Medical School Cafeteria from Wednesday, **December 1, 1999** until **mid-January 2000**. During the closure, catering customers can contact *Dinner's Served*, 713/988-1988. Private dining for catering events will still be available. For reservations, call Auxiliary Enterprises, 713/500-8400.

"The renovations allow UT-Houston to offer better quality and service," says **Charles A. Figari**, assistant vice president of Auxiliary Enterprises. "We apologize for the temporary inconvenience during the renovations. We are scheduling the remodeling project during the least obtrusive time possible. Our goal is to be closed only six weeks. But as with any job of this magnitude, we could be closed for a longer period."

To help select a new food service vendor, Auxiliary Enterprises has organized a team comprised of representatives from each UT-Houston school. A final decision is anticipated on or before Monday, November 22. For questions, contact **Doug Bowerman**, 713/500-8400.

### MEDICAL SCHOOL RECEIVES HUB HIGHEST AWARD



**From left, Donna Schneider, HUB coordinator, presenting Dean Buja and Rick Gaines with a HUB award last week.**

Kudos to those UT-H institutions receiving awards last week from the Historically Underutilized Business (BuyHUB) Program. Among those receiving "Excellence in Performance in FY 1999" awards, were: UT-Houston Medical School, "Highest Dollar Amount Awarded to HUB Vendors (TUFIMS)" award presented to **Dean Maximilian Buja** and **Rick Gaines**, Associate Dean, Management; and the School of Public Health, "Highest Percent of Increase in Dollars Awarded to HUB Vendors" award presented to **Dean Palmer Beasley**, **David Carnahan**, Associate Dean, Management, and **Peter Martin**, Administrative Services Officer. For more information about the HUB program, contact **Donna Schneider**, 713/500-4709. The HUB website is <buy.uth.tmc.edu/hubteam.html>.

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: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu  
FAX: (713) 500-0597  
E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>



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**SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM WINNERS  
ANNOUNCED**

Works of students who took part in The Summer Research Program's Research Forum 1999 were on display last week in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. **Debra Samuels**, HSC Office of Education Access and Equity, announced the winners of the C. Frank Webber Prize for Student Research 1999. They are: first prize, **Ken Hirasaki**, for his "Elastographic Monitoring of High-Intensity-Focused-Ultrasound Based Therapy;" second prize, **Brian Bravenec**, for his "The Non-Surgical Management of Plagiocephaly in Infants;" third prize, **Megan Schmidt**, for her "Herv-K Inserts in C4 Genes Among Mexican-Americans with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus;" and fourth prize, **Tiffany Anderson**, for her "The Effectiveness of Barium Enema as an Adjunct to Incomplete Colonoscopy." All are second-year Medical School students. Congratulations!

**FYI** - New M.D.s across the nation, in a 1999 Medical School Graduation Questionnaire, identified the following as their top 10 specialty intentions:

1. Family Practice or subspecialty	13.3%
2. Internal Medicine	12.2%
3. Pediatrics	10.1%
4. Internal Medicine subspecialty	8.7%
5. Emergency Medicine or subspecialty	6.7%
6. Obstetrics and Gynecology	6.1%
7. Radiology or subspecialty	5.4%
8. Surgery	5.4%
9. Orthopedic Surgery or subspecialty	4.7%
10. Psychiatry or subspecialty	3.6%

- AAMC Reporter, Nov. '99

**DR. BOUTWELL KEYNOTES AGA KHAN  
FOUNDATION U.S.A. EVENT**

**Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, Assistant Dean for Community Affairs and Public Education, was the invited keynote speaker for the Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A., Houston PartnershipWalk Donor Reception on Saturday, November 6. His talk addressed international health issues and public health approaches. About 5,000 participated in the weekend Houston PartnershipWalk. Founded in 1967, the organization is a private, non-denominational, international philanthropic organization that helps people in developing countries find solutions to their problems of health, inadequate education and low incomes.

This year the group's U.S. Partnership Walks took place in Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles and Houston. Since 1995, more than 45,000 people have participated raising more than \$5 million to help those in need. Other U.S. keynote speakers for the events included Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta, and Linda Gray who played Sue Ellen on the popular television series, *Dallas*. On a related note, in the early 1980's, **Dr. Cheves Smythe**, this Medical School's first dean (1970-75), was instrumental in starting the Aga Khan Medical School in Karachi, Pakistan.

**DR. DAVID SMITH TO SPEAK ON WORLD POPULATION TRENDS NOV. 15**

**Dr. David Paul Smith**, associate professor, Behavioral Sciences, UT-Houston School of Public Health, a leading expert in population analysis, will speak on world population figures, trends, and the UN Fund for Population Assistance on Monday, **November 15**, at St. John's School, 2401 Claremont. The reception starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 713/626-7410. The U.N. reported recently that:

- ◆ Earth's population is now six billion
- ◆ The world has doubled since 1960
- ◆ Life expectancy has increased and infant mortality has dropped
- ◆ Fifty years from now, there will be at least nine billion people on the planet.

Smith notes, "The biggest challenges are in Africa, where most governments still do not make modern family planning methods available to their populations, and family sizes remain near six children. In other parts of the world, rates of population increase are slowing. Family sizes in the developing world as a whole are now under four children, including 3.5 children in India, and in the developed world and China, the average family size is two. The situation is far more positive than it was a generation ago."

**STUDY PARTICIPANTS NEEDED**

**COUGH, COUGH, WHEEZE, WHEEZE -  
WHEN ISN'T IT ASTHMA SEASON?**

We don't like to hear it, but bad air, whether internal or external, kills. According to a 1995 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study, exposure to air pollutants can increase the risk of death by 15 percent in cities with the dirtiest air compared with the cleanest communities. Dirty air in the environment, also called smog or ozone pollution, has been linked with complicating conditions such as asthma, heart disease, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis. Houston itself, no stranger to abnormally high smog readings, is now considering more stringent car emissions testing, cuts in industrial pollution, and a suspension of heavy construction projects during morning hours.

A chronic, incurable disease of the airways, asthma is characterized by intermittent episodes of wheezing, coughing, and breathlessness. Poor quality air indoors, caused by dust, dust mites, cockroaches, tobacco smoke, mold and mildew, can also set off asthma attacks. Asthma, claiming about 5,000 American lives annually, is on the rise. In 20 years, the number of asthma sufferers has doubled, from 6.7 million in 1980 to an estimated 17.3 million in 1998.

The Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, led by **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, is looking for patients who have been diagnosed with asthma for at least two years and who would be interested in participating in a study comparing three different inhalers. If you are at least 18 years of age, a non-smoker, and have transportation to the Medical Center for repeat study visits, call **Mary Dyer**, 713/500-6542, for more information. Compensation is provided.

