



Scoop



May is Skin Cancer
Prevention Month

Friday, April 30, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Health Policy Discussion, Dr. Patricia Bray and Mr. Phuong Huynh**, noon - 1 p.m., Wed., **May 5**, SPH, Room 102A, lunch provided; call 500-9485.
- **Office of Academic Computing Open House**, Thurs., **May 6**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., MSB G.100. Contact **Perry Ball**, 713-500-5900.
- **Annual Faculty Meeting**, Thurs., **May 6**, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., MSB 3.001
- **UT-Police Dept. Open House**, Tues, **May 18**, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 7777 Knight Rd., call 713-792-2890.
- **Faculty Wives & Women Faculty Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wed., **May 26**, 1811 Briar Oaks Lane, call **Anne Ribble**, 713-783-6942.
- **Senior Awards Ceremony & Dean's Reception**, 6 p.m., Fri., **June 4**, Edwin Hornberger Conference Center, contact **Pat Caver**, 713-500-5170.
- **Graduation**, 10 a.m., Sat., **June 5**, **Dr. Phil Berry**, Speaker, George Brown Convention Center.

STANCEL APPOINTED NEW GSBS DEAN



Dr. George Stancel

Dr. George Stancel, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, has accepted the position of Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences effective immediately. "Dr. Stancel is an outstanding scientist, educator and administrator," said **UT-Houston President M. David Low**. Stancel, a faculty member at the Medical School since 1972, was president of the Graduate School Faculty in 1987-88, and "has great familiarity with the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences," added Dr. Low. Stancel has many research grant awards from various institutions, including the NIH, and has been active as a graduate student mentor. From 1986-1989 he served as Assistant Dean for Research and Scientific Affairs at the Medical School and in 1989 became Associate Dean for Education and Research prior to becoming Interim Chair and eventually chair of the Medical School's Department of Pharmacology. Noted **Dean Maximilian Buja**, "I'm delighted to see George Stancel move into this leadership role. He is dedicated and well-suited for this job and I look forward to working with him."

UCP LEADERSHIP IN TRANSITION

Dr. Jan Radke, Associate Dean for Clinical Operations, has accepted a position at the University of California at San Diego that begins this summer. **Dean L. Maximilian Buja** will begin serving as acting CEO of University Care Plus and will work with Radke during the transition. He will also work closely with UCP's Medical Director, **Dr. Jordan Lovy**, as well as the Board and administrative staff. Said Dean Buja, "I know the Medical School faculty and staff join me in thanking Jan Radke for his dedicated service in recent years. I am confident that we can maintain a strong clinical enterprise in support of the Medical School's mission if everyone stays focused on contributing their talents to our collective endeavor."



Dr. Jan Radke

CINCO DE MAYO - 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Wed., **May 5**, Webber Plaza.



UTmost Interest

Dr. Eric Boerwinkle, SPH, presented "Tracking Genetic Disease" at the River Oaks Country Club as part of the President's Executive Luncheon series, hosted by **President M. David Low**...**Dr. Carl Sandler**, Radiology, spoke on "Renal Trauma" at the Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists meeting in Palm Beach...**Dr. Francisco Fuentes**, Cardiology, was elected vice-president of The American Society for Preventive Cardiology 1999-2000...**Drs. Robert Guynn** and **Pedro Ruiz**, Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, addressed AIDS at the 8th Internat'l Pan Arab Congress of Psychiatry in Bahrain...**Dr. Richard Andrassy**, A.G. McNeese professor and chair, Surgery, will be the Lawrence Chaffin/William Snyder Visiting Professor at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, **May 26-28**.

IDX SYSTEM GOES "LIVE"

On April 1 IDX went live. That's the Medical School's physician practice plan's new computerized billing system implemented to simplify the complex process of patient data collection and billing in a managed-care world. "The IDX system we have installed is a dynamic tool developed and enhanced by users in medical schools and large multi-specialty group practices over the past 20 years," commented **L. A. Meyers**, executive director, MSRDP, Clinical Operations. "The ability to implement continuous improvement exists in IDX and will be accomplished in a thoughtful manner. IDX has been able to attract a group of very knowledgeable IDX staff who will augment current IDX processes with additional IDX support features, thereby creating the opportunity for increased collections while concurrently facing a declining reimbursement environment." Also effective April 1 was a new name for the cost center: Physician Business Services or PBS (replaces the Central Business Office).



L. A. Meyers

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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MEDICAL STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT HOUSTON-AREA SCIENCE FAIR

More than 50 UT-Houston medical students came together at the Astro Arena last March 31st to judge Houston-area science exhibits and make a difference for area middle and high school students. The event was the city's 40th Science Fair, an annual event that continues to grow in participation and quality. With 1,400 entries including categories ranging from medicine and public health to zoology and behavioral sciences, the annual event is now considered the largest juried science fair in the world.

Dr. Stewart Turner, associate professor in the basic sciences at the Dental Branch, along with his faculty colleague, **Dr. Ted Pate**, have been actively involved for many years in the coordination of judging activities and have nothing but praise for the Medical School's student and faculty participants who recently gave their time to assist the judging.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 41st Science Fair scheduled at the Astro Arena next **March 31, 2000**, says Turner. By the first of the year he plans to have a new list of judges for the March 2000 event. Judging commitments can be all day or just morning or afternoon sessions.

Notes Turner, "This is more than just judging. It is a rewarding experience to be a role model and mentor to young students who aspire to careers in science and medicine. Our judges get back more than they expect. Faculty and students alike are encouraged to participate in the judging and will find this is a wonderful opportunity to interact with young students. One of our most loyal judges over the years has been a faculty member, **Dr. Nachum Dafny**, from the Medical School's Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy."

Additionally, medical students will receive blue book credit for participation. Blue book credits include community service documented in the student's performance file and demonstrates an important dimension of community involvement and service that goes beyond classroom grades. Faculty and students alike who would be interested in participating in judging next March 31 can call Dr. Turner at 713-500-4588 or email <sturner@mail.db.uth.tmc.edu>. Watch *Scoop* for reminders of this community opportunity in the coming year.



FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENINGS TOMORROW

Free Skin Cancer Screenings will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., tomorrow, Saturday, **May 1**, at 22 Houston-area

sites. Faculty from the UT-Houston Department of Dermatology will be on hand. A list of the 22 sites is available in the Office of Community Affairs, MSB G.004. The program is sponsored by the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Cancer Society, and the Houston Dermatological Society.

CRESON SPEAKS OUT AT JUVENILES & VIOLENCE PRESS CONFERENCE

Dr. Daniel Creson, professor, psychiatry & behavioral sciences, said at a press conference at the Hornberger Conference Center last Friday, April 23, that "humans have a propensity for violence." Other experts in child adolescence in attendance, fielding questions on how violence seems to impact the brain neurologically, were:

Dr. Gerry Moeller, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, **Dr. Ann Saunders**, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and **Dr. Dean Adjukovic**, Society for Psychological Assistance, Zagreb, Croatia. The press event took place the day before Creson's "Juveniles & Violence" forum, held at the Medical School last Saturday, April 24 (See *Houston Chronicle*, 4/25/99, pg. 41A & *Scoop*, 4/9/99). Media representatives from Channels 2, 11, KTRH (740 AM), and the *Houston Chronicle* covered Saturday's forum.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. ERIC THOMAS

Dr. Eric Thomas, Internal Medicine, has been awarded a four-year grant in the amount of \$240,000, in The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars Program*. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was established 27 years ago and is the largest U.S. foundation supporting health care. The Generalist Physician Faculty Scholars Program sponsors outstanding faculty in family practice, general internal medicine, and general pediatrics. Dr. Thomas received his undergraduate degree at UT-Austin, and medical degree at UT-Southwestern. His fellowship in internal medicine was at Harvard Medical School and today he is both a staff and attending physician at Hermann Hospital, as well as a staff physician at the Good Neighbor Health Clinic. Additionally, Dr. Thomas works with the Medical School's evidence-based medicine course.

FYI - Dr. Doris Ross, Dean Pro Tem, School of Allied Health Sciences, (SAHS), along with faculty and students, department of health informatics, invite all to their Spring Student Poster Session, Monday, **May 3**, 4 - 6 p.m., University Center Tower (UCT), 7000 Fannin, Suite 875.



DR. DENTON COOLEY RECOGNIZED

President Clinton presented **Dr. Denton A. Cooley** the 1998 National Medal of Technology, Tuesday, April 27 in the White House East Room. Dr. Cooley, founder, president, and surgeon-in-chief of the Texas Heart Institute, was recognized for his inspirational skill, leadership, and technical accomplishments during six decades of practicing cardiovascular surgery. He was one of five recipients of the award. The medal is presented for technological firsts in the creation of new or significantly improved products, processes or services.

FACULTY PROMOTION PROCESS

"How does a faculty fella or gal get promoted around here?" Come find out from **Drs. Henry Strobel**, associate dean for faculty affairs, and **Carl Sandler**, chair, faculty appointments, promotions and tenure committee. They'll be offering three presentations, on Thursday, **May 20**, 8:30 - 10 a.m., and 2 - 3 p.m., MSB 2.135, as well as Wednesday, **May 26**, 3:30 - 5 p.m., MSB 2.135. Information to be covered, with a question and answer period following, will be: criteria and steps in the promotion process; responsibilities of the faculty member and department chair; and faculty appointments, promotions and tenure committee (FAPTC) review process. To register, e-mail Mary Cole at <mcole@dean.med.uth.tmc.edu> or call 713-500-5100.