



Scoop



Friday, August 27, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

➤ **UT-H Mini-Medical School on Women's Health**, Tuesdays, **Sept. 7, 14, 21, & 28**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Museum of Health & Medical Science. Call 713-500-6394.

UTmost Interest

Ms. Liliana Rodriguez, Microbiology course director, was an invited lecturer at the



Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico.

Hot News

She lectured second-year medical students on "Bacterial Gastrointestinal Infections."

FYI - Dr. Gailen Marshall, Internal Medicine/ Allergy and Clinical, and **Sandra Henry**, Office of Public Affairs, recently taped a promotion for UT-Houston's *Stay Healthy Start Now* public education initiative (see *Scoop*, Aug. 13) on KLDE 94.5 radio. The segment airs this Sunday, **August 29**, 7 - 8 a.m. on that station's *FYI Houston* program.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Bring your I.D. badge and enjoy a free lunch. The Medical School Employeee Appreciation Day is Wednesday, **Sept. 15**, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Webber Plaza. Music by "Shang & the New News." In case of rain, the event will take place in the Leather Lounge.



RESEARCH DAY OCT. 8

Have a poster/software you recently presented at a national meeting? Here's your chance to show UT-Houston your research. Register now and mark your calendars for the 1999 5th Annual Research Day. Research Day will take place Friday, **October 8**, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m., Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. Register online, <<http://research.uth.tmc.edu/researchday.html>>.

NOTICE – The Medical School Town Hall Meeting, **Nov. 18**, has been **CANCELLED** and is being rescheduled. *Scoop* will post the new date when it becomes available.

MORENO APPOINTED TO THREE-YEAR TERM BY SHALALA



Dr. Carlos Moreno

Secretary of Health and Human Services **Donna Shalala** has appointed **Dr. Carlos A. Moreno**, chair, Department of Family Practice and Community medicine, to serve on the Advisory Committee On Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry. The appointment is a three-year term beginning immediately and ending September 30, 2002. The advisory committee provides advice and recommendations on a broad range of issues. It consists of 23 members appointed by the Secretary, including physicians and other health professionals in Family Medicine, General Internal Medicine, General Pediatrics, and General Dentistry.

CHEN PRESENTS ULTRASOUND FINDINGS ON CARPEL TUNNEL

Almost everyone's heard of carpal tunnel syndrome or CTS. It's a common condition caused by repetitive motions such as using a computer, that begins with numbness and tingling in the hand and can involve aching in the hand, forearm or shoulder. It often causes intermittent pain during the day and can occur at night and awaken one from sleep. **Dr. Phebe Chang Chen**, Radiology, will be giving a paper on "Can High Resolution Ultrasound Replace Nerve Conduction Study and Electromyography (EMG) In the Evaluation of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome?" The presentation will take place at the 1999 Annual Meeting and Scientific Assembly of the Radiological Society of North America to be held November 28 through December 3 at McCormick Place, Chicago.



Dr. Phebe Chen

CLINICAL RESEARCH CURRICULUM STARTS SEPT. 8

The Introductory Course of the Clinical Research Curriculum will be held on Wednesdays, 5 – 6:30 p.m. from September 8 – December 15 in MSB 2.135. The course is designed to assist in the development of skilled clinical investigators. Applications for the intensive mentorship track of this course will be available in September. For information, call 713-500-5651. Courses are:

- Sept. 8** "Getting Started in Research," **Jon E. Tyson, MD, MPH**
- Sept. 15** "Research Design I: Observational Studies," **Jan Risser, PhD**
- Sept. 22** "Research Design II: Interventional Studies," **Jon E. Tyson, MD**
- Sept. 29** "Diagnostic Tests," **Virginia A. Moyer, MD, MPH**
- Oct. 6** "Practical Issues in Study Management," **Robert Hardy, PhD**
- Oct. 13** "Introductory Statistics I," **Ralph Frankowski, PhD, Choi Ahn, PhD**
- Oct. 20** "Introductory Statistics II," **Ralph Frankowski, PhD, Choi Ahn, PhD**
- Nov. 3** "Determinants of Health," **M. David Low, MD, PhD**
- Nov. 10** "Scientific Writing," **John Grabowski, PhD**
- Nov. 17** "Grant Applications and Funding," **John Grabowski, PhD**
- Dec. 1** "Outcomes Research," **Eric Thomas, MD, MPH**
- Dec. 8** "Economic Analysis," **Michael Swint, PhD**
- Dec. 15** "Evidence Based Medicine," **Virginia A. Moyer, MD, MPH**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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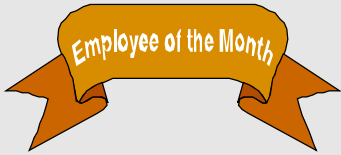
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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

August Employee of the Month - Brian Poindexter

Brian Poindexter, our August Employee of the Month and a senior research assistant in the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, should have been a teacher. His background is a B.S. at Loyola in the biological sciences and an M.S. in molecular biology. During the summer in his lab and under a microscope, he lends an instructive hand to research students. And twice-a-week throughout the first semester, Brian works with first-year medical students in the histology lab. Brian came to pathology in June of 1995 when **Dean L. Maximilian Buja** was still chair. He presently works with **Dr. Roger Bick**, Associate Professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine/Clinical. Their foray into heart research involves preparation of primary culture of heart cells from - neonatal and adult rats, mice, dogs, and human hearts. Using fluorescent microscopy, the cellular consequences of inflammatory cytokines and their presence during myocardial ischemia and infarction is visualized. Changes in calcium levels and fluorescent markers are carried out in a Multi-User Fluorescent Microscopy & Imaging Lab.



Known for his easy going competence under pressure, and sometimes working graveyard hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., the young man from Louisiana waxes eloquent on his primary research focus. It is one he obviously loves. "Cytokines are chemical messengers. Their effects can normally be seen with a microscope at a magnification of 600X. Using fluorescent markers, various colors appear. I work mostly with calcium, an important messenger in the beating heart which fluoresces green with each beat." Brian and Dr. Bick work with **Drs. Shan** and **Zoghbi** from Methodist Hospital investigating "hibernating cardiac tissue," a zone where tissue seems dead but has the ability to recover. This occurs when blood ceases to flow to the heart and oxygen is deprived. Being able to recover some of the tissue that has been damaged is especially important in open heart surgery. Right now Brian and Dr. Bick are also working on a collaborative project with the Huffington Center on Aging, and **Drs. Olivia Pereira-Smith** and **Jim Smith** at Baylor.

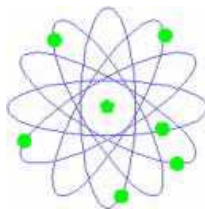
A bogey golfer and guitar player who prefers the acoustic guitar, Brian celebrated a marriage this past May to **Tiffany**, from Church Point, Louisiana, who's employed as a Landman, estimating land values for oil companies. "Tiffany has a large family, and they're really my home-away-from-home," he said fondly. Brian's family lives 90 miles east of Memphis, Tennessee. When asked, he responded slyly, "They live in Milan, as in Italy, er, Tennessee. And that's 78 miles southeast of Paris, Paris, Tennessee that is," he chuckled.

"We've been publishing papers on our continuing research with the Texas Heart Institute. They're using a tool called the Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD), which does the pumping for the heart so the heart can rest. We've discovered through our research that this rest allows the damaged heart tissue to recover." A man who insists he's learning all the time, who finds his job of measuring and recording interesting because no two work days are the same, has himself a powerful way of communicating complex subjects in clear and understandable terms.



THREE WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The University of Texas-Houston School of Nursing achieved a first in the past few months. The first three graduates of the first nursing clinical doctorate in Texas are **Cinda Clark**, **Wendy Duggleby**, and **Patricia Washington**. Now in its third year, the school's D.S.N. program began in 1996. Clark, in her dissertation, examined toxic carbon dioxide buildup, an early warning sign of infection, in the gastrointestinal tract. Duggleby, in her dissertation defense, examined the issues of pain, hospices, and elderly cancer patients. And Washington looked at the issue of breast cancer education among African-American women. Congratulations!



THE ALAN T. WATERMAN AWARD

The Alan T. Waterman Award committee is soliciting nominations for the 25th Waterman Award. The Award is presented annually by the National Science Foundation and National Science Board to an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering funded by the National Science Foundation. It consists of a citation, a bronze medal, and a nonrestrictive grant of \$500,000 over a 3-year period.

The award is for scientific research or advanced study in the biological, mathematical, medical, engineering, physical, social or other sciences. Only one candidate will be nominated from UT-Houston. If interested in competing, notify the Office of Research Services at 500-3075 or via e-mail at <research@admin4.hsc.uth.tmc.edu> by Monday, **September 20**. You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and 35 years old or younger, or not more than seven years beyond receipt of the Ph.D. degree by December 31. Those interested are expected to have completed sufficient scientific or engineering research to have demonstrated, through personal accomplishments, outstanding capability and exceptional promise for significant future achievement. In addition, you will be expected to exhibit originality, innovation, and significant impact in your field.

FYI - The National Cancer Institute has announced that all Phase II randomized clinical trials supported or performed by the NCI require monitoring by a Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB). For information contact **Dr. Richard Mowery**, 301-496-0510 or see website <<http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/grantspolicies/datasafety.htm>>.