



Scoop



Friday, September 17, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

FOURTH ANNUAL JOHN C. RIBBLE, M.D., LECTURE SEPT. 22

Dr. Richard Wilkinson will speak on "Health, Equality and the Social Environment" on Wednesday, **September 22**, noon – 1 p.m., MSB 3.001. He is professor and associate director of the International Centre for Health and Society, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College, London. Wilkinson's research focuses on social factors that influence health in relation to income distribution and life expectancy. His recent book, *Unhealthy Societies: the Afflictions of Inequality*, explores some of these issues and possible solutions. Lunch will be provided to the first 175 attendees beginning at 11:45 a.m.

WETSEL CHAIRS TALKS ON C3A RECEPTOR KNOCK-OUT MICE

Dr. Rick A. Wetsel, Associate Professor, director of the Developmental Biology Laboratory at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, recently returned from the XVII International Complement Workshop in Rhodes, Greece, where he chaired a session on Complement Deficiencies. During this meeting post-doctoral fellows from his laboratory, **Drs. Jens Kildsgaard** and **Scott Drouin**, described the generation of a C3a receptor knock-out mouse and complement's role in asthma using a mouse model system. In addition, Wetsel and Kildsgaard presented their work examining the role of C3adesArg in Lipid Metabolism and Hyperapobetalipoproteinemia at the 7th European Meeting on Complement in Human Disease in Helsinki, Finland. They were invited to review this area of research in a special issue of *Molecular Immunology*, which will appear in the December 1999 issue.



Dr. Rick Wetsel

STUDENT HEALTH CHANGES EFFECTIVE SEPT. '99

Beginning September 1, Student Health Services was consolidated into one location at the Medical School (John Freeman Building G.703). In the past there were two locations for student health care, one in the University Center Tower which was managed by the School of Nursing, and the other in the Medical School, which was managed by the Medical School. The Medical School Health Services offers primary health care, management of needlesticks (the 24-hour Needlestick Hotline is 713-951-8013), well-woman exams, referrals to specialists, immunizations, and tuberculosis screening. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Patients are seen by appointment (713-500-5171) and on a walk-in basis. For administrative, or services coverage with the health clinic questions, call Auxiliary Enterprises at 713-500-8400 or the Medical School Health Service at 713-500-5171.

NIH'S PUBMED CENTRAL WILL MAKE JANUARY 2000 DEBUT

NIH Director **Dr. Harold Varmus** announced recently that NIH will establish *PubMed Central*, an electronic repository for research results in the life sciences. According to the announcement, by January 2000, *PubMed Central* will begin receiving, storing, and distributing content - including peer-reviewed articles, preprints, and other screened reports from existing journals, new journals, and reputable scientific organizations. The site will be integrated with the existing PubMed site, <<http://www.ncbi.nih.gov/PubMed/>>. For information contact **Anne Thomas**, (301)496-4461, or <<http://www.nih.gov/news/>>.



EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **UT-H Mini-Medical School**, Tuesdays, **Sept. 21 & 28**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Museum of Health & Medical Science, 1515 Hermann Drive. Women's health issues. 713-500-6394.
- **Research Day**, Friday, **Oct. 8**, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

Editor's Note: **Dr. Doug Baxter**, Neurobiology and Anatomy, is a co-principal investigator and one of the 4 project leaders for the new \$5 million 5-year program project grant, "Neural Models of Plasticity: Molecules to Networks." **Dr. John Byrne**, chair, Neurobiology and Anatomy, is the principal investigator. (Highlighted in *Scoop* 9-10-99).

UTmost Interest

Dr. Melinda Stanley, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, was elected to Fellow Status in Division 12 (Clinical Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. The honor is given for "evidence of unusual and outstanding contribution or performance to the field of clinical psychology."



Hot News

'99 CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

If you attended the 1999 Classified Employee Workshop and volunteered to serve on the next committee, contact **Sheila Donnell**, x5650 or e-mail <sdonnell@pedi1.med.uth.tmc.edu>. Next meeting is Thursday, **Sept. 23**, 11 a.m., MSB 3.028.

HOLIDAY FAIR DECEMBER 2

Holidays are just around the corner. The Medical School's Employee Relations Committee is having its 14th Annual Arts and Crafts Fair on **December 2**, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., in the Leather Lounge. Handicrafts, jewelry, clothing and food items will be offered. For those who want to participate, call **Beverly Head**, 713-500-6512, or **Kathy Crowley**, 713-500-6511.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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ASTHMATIC RESPONSES STUDY

Asthma is an allergic disorder with spasms of the bronchial tubes and reoccurring attacks, ranging from mild wheezing to a life-threatening inability to breath. The laboratory of **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, is currently looking into individuals' asthmatic responses. The study is being funded by the Women's Fund for Health Education and Research. Participants will be part of an investigation into the immune changes seen in asthmatic women during a normal menstrual cycle. Those interested must be between the ages of 18-45. Females need to have regular, predictable menstrual cycles for the past three months. Asthmatic males are encouraged to participate as age-matched controls. Compensation is provided. Interested individuals can contact **Eleni Maniatis** at 713-500-6539.



Did You Know? UT employees who carry TUHP (Texas Universities Health Plan, Inc.) medical coverage will be receiving their new TUHP cards, effective Sept. 1, 1999, within the next few weeks, TUHP insurance representatives say. TUHP is a non-profit managed-care organization, created to support The University of

Texas System and Texas Tech University in the development of comprehensive, community-based health care benefits, throughout 104 Texas counties. Corporate headquarters are located at 701 Brazos Street, Suite 950, Austin, 78701. For more information, see website <<http://www.tuhp.com>>. For customer service, call 1-877-291-2112.

PHARMACOLOGICAL/TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES AWARDS

Faculty interested in nominating candidates for this award should contact the Office of Research Services (ORS), 713-500-3075 by **October 12**. New Investigator Awards in the Pharmacological or Toxicological Sciences provide \$210,000 over a period of three years (\$70,000 per year). UT-Houston can nominate only two candidates, one in the pharmacological sciences, and one in the toxicological sciences. Biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, or the physical or computational sciences candidates must have a M.D. or Ph.D. degree and must be independent investigators appointed within three years of the November 1 application deadline to a tenure-track position as an assistant professor or its equivalent. Studies have ranged from basic research into the cellular mechanisms of drug action to studies of drug effects on animals, and from molecular investigations to environmental research.



MODIFIED FOOD GUIDE PYRAMID FOR PEOPLE OVER SEVENTY

September is National Healthy Aging Month. In the chart below, the need for fluid (eight servings of water or water equivalents) is emphasized since the elderly's thirst mechanism is less responsive than a younger person's. Calcium, vitamin D and vitamin B12, are also accented. UT-HHSC's Center on Aging will be offering several healthy aging lecture presentations. Topics include: "Exercise: Overcoming Inactivity," and "Should I Change My Diet As I Age?" For information call **Sharon Holder**, 713-500-8251.



SOURCE: **RUSSELL RM, RASMUSSEN H, LICHTENSTEIN AH,**
J NUTR 1999;129:751-753

Call for Papers

2000 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHYSICIAN HEALTH

“RECAPTURING THE SOUL OF MEDICINE,” MARCH 29 – APRIL 2, 2000

Scientific, data-based findings on issues of physician health, including “repaired physicians,” is the coming year’s theme for this convention. Papers dealing with medical students’ special issues, are also welcome. The conference, co-sponsored by the American Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association, is set for **May 29 – April 2, 2000**, at Seabrook Island, The Conference Resort, South Carolina, outside Charleston. Three types of presentations are welcome – poster, paper, and workshop. The deadline for abstracts is **October 31**. Applicants will be notified December 1. Says **Roger Brown**, a conference representative, “By paying attention to their health, physicians can recapture the soul of medicine, i.e., the notion of professionalism in which they care for their patients first and foremost. Issues of reimbursement or constraints can be dealt with in this light.” For forms and information contact **Roger Brown**, <Roger_Brown@ama-assn.org>, or **Elaine Tejcek**, AMA, Physician Health Program, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60610, by phone, 1-312-464-5066, or <elaine_tejcek@ama-assn.org>. Topic interests include:

- primary prevention of illness and impairment
- wellness programs and efforts
- needs of particular physician populations such as minority groups or women
- relationship between physician factors and medical errors
- confidentiality
- internet-based resources and pitfalls
- medicine and spirituality
- stressors - their impact and effects
- relationships among hospital programs, state programs and licensing authorities
- legal issues and discrimination related to illness, disability or impairment.