



Scoop



Animal Technician Week

Friday, February 4, 2000

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:



► **Dean's Lecturer, Dr. Patricia K. Donahoe**, "Downstream Signal Transduction of Mullerian Inhibiting Substance in Ovarian Cancer," Wed., Feb. 9, 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

► **UT-GSBS/Blaffer Seminar Series in Virology & Gene Therapy**, Cystic Fibrosis Lecturer **Dr. Michael J. Welsh**, Tues., Feb. 8, 4 p.m., Hickey Auditorium, 11th floor, MDA Cancer Center.



Dr. Kenneth Wu

DR. KEN WU TO CHAIR HEMATOLOGY BOARD

Dr. Kenneth K. Wu, Director, Division of Hematology and Vascular Biology, Internal Medicine, and a Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Professor, has been appointed to the prestigious position of chairman of the Hematology Subspecialty Board and director of the American Board of Internal Medicine, effective July 1. Says **Dr. James T. Willerson**, chair, Internal Medicine, "This is a tremendous accomplishment and we are very proud of Dr. Wu for this latest recognition." Wu, a physician/scientist recognized internationally for his work in the field of hematology and vascular biology, was named to Taiwan's Academia Sinica (National Academy of Science) in 1994. At that time former Mayor **Bob Lanier** proclaimed Dec. 9 as "Kenneth K. Wu, M.D. Day" in Houston. A member of the Medical School's faculty since 1983, Wu received his medical degree from the National Taiwan University Medical School in Taipei, Taiwan with residency and fellowship training at the University of Iowa.

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UTmost Interest

Dr. Francisco Fuentes, Cardiology, was elected president, American Society for Preventive



Cardiology for a one-year term...**Drs. Steven J.**

Hot News

Norris, Pathology, chaired and **George M. Weinstock**, Microbiology, presented a talk at the Gordon Conference in

Ventura, Ca...**Dr. Jacqueline Hect**, Pediatrics, was featured in *Stepping Up*, a Shriner's Hospital quarterly, (see *Scoop*, 7/2/99), for her work in the genetic factors leading to clubfoot.

DUE MARCH 1 - Full-time faculty with two or more years of consecutive service are eligible to apply for faculty development leave. Check <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/Faculty/>>. Or call 713-500-5100, Office of Faculty Affairs.



NOTE - Through Friday, **March 10**, from 7 a.m.-6 p.m., one northbound and one southbound lane will be closed on Fannin Street, between Holcome Blvd. and Braeswood Blvd. For more information, call **Larry Wepler**, Jones & Carter, Inc., 713-777-5337, **Tommy Artz**, METRO, 713-739-4049, or **Kelly Hodges**, METRO, 713-739-4007.

FYI - Dr. Lucian Leape, Harvard School of Public Health, and Third Annual John C. Ribble Professorship Lecturer (see *Scoop* 1/15/99), has been in the news of late, testifying before a Senate subcommittee on reducing errors by lowering the shift hours in the medical profession, similar to aviation safety standards. (Source: *Houston Chronicle*, Jan. 27, p. 2A).

DR. LIU AWARDED KNOBIL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Nazhen Liu, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy, has been awarded the Ernst Knobil Research Fellowship for her research proposal to examine the role of protein components implicated in neurotransmitter secretion using optical methods in cultured brain neurons. The fellowship was created to honor the many distinguished research accomplishments of **Dr. Ernst Knobil** in the neurosciences and to provide a two-year postdoctoral stipend of \$30,000 per year. The award is administered through the UT-H Medical School Research Committee.

POWER OUTAGE CORRECTED

The Medical School sustained a power outage Thursday evening, Jan. 27 as a result of heavy rains and a short-circuited transformer. Fortunately auxiliary power was restored in short order and full power restored the following day after repairs. Due to the loss of heat and overhead lights in parts of the building, on Friday, Jan. 28, some employees, in areas where heat and lighting were affected, were sent home. Said **Dean Maximilian Buja**, "This power outage was an unusual occurrence, but we were prepared to handle it with our auxiliary power system. There were no reports of compromised research material, and no injuries were reported during the incident, which was very fortunate." KTRK, Channel 13, aired a brief report to the community on their Friday evening broadcast. Thanks to all who worked throughout the evening to oversee the situation.

JUMP-START PROGRAM FOR FACULTY DEADLINE, FEB. 25

The deadline is nearing. Friday, **February 25th** is the cut-off day for applying for short-term (2-6 weeks) support. Up to \$2,000 will be awarded to a mid-career faculty member needing support for beginning a new basic or clinical research project. Funding is also available for redirecting an ongoing study. Instructions and the application are available from the Office of Faculty Affairs or from department chairs. For more information, contact: **Mary Cole** at 713-500-5100.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Editor's Note: Scoop never tires of reporting medical-related happenings in and around the School. Sometimes a nonmedical topic comes along that deserves some space. Betty Chapman's recent column in the Houston Business Journal (1-21-00) took a look back in time to see where the names of Houston-area towns originated. See how many you know.

- ◆ **Alief** - named after the postmistress **Alief Ozella Magee**.
- ◆ **Alvin** - for **Alvin Morgan** who supervised the shipping of cattle at its flag station and built the settlement's first house.
- ◆ **Conroe** - for lumberman **Isaac Conroe**, who established a lumbermill known as Conroe's Swith on the International and Great Northern Railroad line.
- ◆ **Deer Park** - for the former site of a private park for deer.
- ◆ **Dickinson** - named for **John Dickinson**, who received a land grant north of the present town in 1824.
- ◆ **Hempstead** - some medical news for *Scoop* as the town was named for **Dr. G.S.B. Hempstead** of Portsmouth, Ohio, a relation of one of the town founders.
- ◆ **Houston** - Charlotte Allen, wife of one of the city's founders is said to have declared at an evening dinner with **General Sam Houston** that the new town, founded in 1836, should be named for him. The Allen brothers - Augustus, from Canaseraga, New York, and John, from Orrville, New York - marketed Houston property for its spring water and perfect climate and knew the value of a Texas hero's name.
- ◆ **Humble** - named after justice of the peace **Pleasant S. Humble** and not for the oil company.
- ◆ **Jersey Village** - named for the developer **Clark Henry's** Jersey cows.
- ◆ **Katy** - highly debated origin between a rail line often called "the Katy" and a saloon keeper, **Katy Mares**. Railroad workers would end the day saying, "Let's go to Katy's." You can pick your favorite.
- ◆ **League City** - first known as Butler's Ranch and renamed for **J.C. League**, who laid out the town site on the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad.
- ◆ **Montgomery** - named for **Andrew Montgomery**, who established a trading post around 1823.
- ◆ **New Caney** - named for dense canebrakes along Caney Creek.
- ◆ **Sugar Land** - obvious name for the site of large sugar factory.
- ◆ **Pearland** - for pear orchards in the area.
- ◆ **Richmond** - named after a city in England because of perceived climate similarities.
- ◆ **Seabrook** - named after **Seabrook Sydnor**, whose father, John, plotted the town in 1900.
- ◆ **Tomball** - first known as Peck, renamed in 1907 for **Congressman Thomas Ball** who routed the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railway through the town.

Alief

Deer Park

HOUSTON

Katy

Pearland

STUDENTS WITH A HEART

Join the fun as Medical School students who participate in the Family Practice Club, will be doing screenings and talking health with visitors at the free UT-Houston "Heart to Heart" Health Fair 5 – 8 p.m., next Tuesday, **Feb. 8**, at the Museum of Health & Medical Science.

Volunteering their time will be **Michael Wenzel, Noushin Ashrafiyan, Andrea Richter-Werning**, and **Tiffany Anderson**, all in their second year, and **Jason Kelly, Scott Oberhoff, Robert S. LeGrow, Brett Stephens, Lillian Boehler, Grace Ahad**, and **Michael Chester**, all in their first year.

LASER VISION OPPORTUNITY

During the month of February, clinicians in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science are offering employees of the UT-Houston Medical School and eligible dependents substantial discounts on laser vision correction. The Department maintains the only facility in Texas with a LADARVision laser that actively tracks and compensates for eye movement during laser vision correction. For more information and complimentary evaluations, call 713-704-0444. (For related story, see *Scoop*, 6/18/99).



EXPLORING HEALTH CARE OPTIONS, FEBRUARY 29

Do you want to know where to locate the latest information on exercise or vitamins or other health topics? Do you need information about diseases that may affect your family or community? Friends of the Texas Medical Center Library, an organization founded in 1958, have a solution. They're excited about their upcoming "Extra Day" Open House, with free informal lectures, tours and demonstrations open to the public, Tuesday, **February 29**. Kicking off the day-long events will be a presentation at 9:30 a.m. in the Teleconference Center, lower level, Jesse H. Jones Library Building, 1133 M. D. Anderson Blvd.

The HAM-TMC Library is nationally recognized and one of the city's hidden treasures. It has a collection of over 2,800 journal titles and 140,000 books in medicine and nursing. Also housed at the library is the John P. McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center. It is the only historical repository with a major focus on collecting and preserving documents concerning the history of health care in Houston. Collections there record the achievements of people and institutions that were not only innovators in medical and surgical care, but who have influenced national health policies as well.

Come out and go the extra mile for an extra special "Open House," Feb. 29. For more information, call 713-799-7169.