

Scoop

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston
Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

Thursday, July 12, 2001

TOWN HALL MEETING SET FOR FRIDAY, JULY 13

A town hall meeting is scheduled for noon in 3.001 in MSB. All employees are encouraged to attend to receive timely updates on the Medical School Building.

MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

The building has been open for business since Monday, July 11. The ground floor and basement are construction remediation sites and are off-limits except to access elevators to upper levels. Two entrances to the building are available: on the Webber Plaza side of the building near the circle drive and at the breezeway near the guard's desk. Occupants are reminded not to block open stair well doors on any floor. Of course, all stairwells are open for emergency use at any time. Laboratory vacuum is not available -- no date for restoration is available at this time.

Employees are urged to call the FIXT line, ext. 3498, to report mold observations or other problems. The number to report environmental and safety issues is ext. 4206. Major moves of equipment utilizing a moving contractor will be scheduled through the Office of the Associate Dean for Management, ext. 3118. An online research survey for building occupants, conducted by Dr. Gailen Marshall, is posted at: <http://capastatistic.com/msbflood.htm>

Facility Operations notes that some electrical and power lighting outages will be necessary for some tasks associated with MSB flood recovery construction and maintenance operations. The work will be performed 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, July 14 and Saturday, July 21.

In addition, the natural gas lines in the basement of the Medical School building are going to be flushed with air for the next several days to dry any water, which got into the line during the flood. If you smell gas in the building, particularly in the ground floor or basement area, this will be the most likely source. However, if you smell gas in the upper floors of the Medical School, report the problem to the FIXT line at 3498.

The lines from the basement feed the gas supplies for the Medical School labs. Therefore, the labs will be without gas until this process is complete. The time required to complete the repairs and return gas to the labs will depend on the amount damage.

MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL UPDATE

Memorial Hermann Hospital reported to medical staff on July 12 that it plans to reopen for inpatients Tuesday, July 17. The following services will be available:

--Emergency Center, LifeFlight, 3rd Floor Hermann Pavilion -- as a 35-bed ICU with beds designated as CCU, CVICU, NCCU, and STICU; 3, 4, and 5 Cullen with regular beds; Women's Services, Neonatal ICU, PICU, Radiology and the Operating Room. There will be approximately 280 open beds.

--On Monday, July 23, STICU, SIMU, TCCU, TNIC, 9 Jones, and 3 Jones will reopen. 3 Jones will be reconfigured for regular general acute beds. Bed capacity will be about 470.

--On Aug. 7, the remaining units, including MICU and MIMU, will open. This will give the hospital a total bed complement of 746 beds.

UNIVERSITY DINING AND CATERING HOURS

The Medical School Cafeteria is still without power thus limiting both dining and catering services available to UT staff and students university wide.

The Dental School Cafeteria has reopened and is under regular operating hours (7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.). The School of Public Health will reopen Monday (07/16/01) under regular operating hours (7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.).

University Catering Services have been suspended indefinitely based on the reopening date of the Medical School Cafeteria.

Details: Doug Bowerman, 713-500-8403.

OCB TELEPHONE SERVICE OUT

OCB has again lost telephone service and access cards are not functioning on some of the doors. Customers who need access to the building should page the locksmith at 713-905-2619 to handle emergency requests. Southwestern Bell has been to 1851 Crosspoint (OCB) and the cable has been cut again that feeds OCB. The issue is being addressed.

OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTER FACILITIES OPEN

The outdoor facilities at the Recreation Center are now open for use. For more detailed information, access:

<http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/recreat/updates.htm> The center's main Web site is:

<http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/>

FOOD DRIVE RESCHEDULED

Due to Tropical Storm Allison, the Texas Medical Center Food Drive will now be held Tuesday, Oct. 16, which is "World Food

Day." This is an international observance sanctioned by the United Nations. In years past, the TMC food drive has been held in the summer in conjunction with Channel 11.

BIOMEDICAL GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund is inviting nominations for awards in the program Career Awards

in the Biomedical Sciences. An institution may nominate up to six candidates. The awards are intended to foster the development and productivity of biomedical researchers who are early in their careers and to help them make the critical transition to becoming independent investigators. The internal deadline is Aug. 3. Details: <http://research.uth.tmc.edu/scholar/cabs.html>

UT CAN NOMINATE TWO TO SEARLE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Office of Research Services is soliciting nominations for the Searle Scholars Program. Nominees are expected to be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences. Investigators should have begun or will begin their first appointment as an assistant professor on or after July 1, 2001.

Grants are normally \$180,000 for a three year-period, with \$60,000 payable each year. UT-Houston can nominate two

investigators to the 2002 Searle Scholars Program for grants beginning July 1, 2002.

The internal deadline is Aug. 3

Details: <http://research.uth.tmc.edu/scholar/SEARLE2002.htm>

GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE AVAILABLE

The Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI) is taking nominations for three research awards: Young Clinical Science

Award, Clinical Innovator Award, and an award for the establishment of Centers of Excellence. The mission of FAMRI is to sponsor scientific and medical research for the early detection, treatment, and cure of diseases and medical conditions associated

with exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. Details: www.famri.org

UTMOST INTEREST

Dr. Ronald Portman, director, Division of Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension, and Dr. Jonathan Sorof, Pediatric

Nephrology, were re-elected chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the International Pediatric Hypertension Association.

The pair organized the first International Pediatric Hypertension Symposium in San Francisco in association with the annual

meeting of the American Society of Hypertension. Proceedings of the symposium will be published in the American Journal of

Hypertension. Five papers were given and two plenary presentations were made from UT-Houston participants... Dr. Bryant

Boutwell, Community Affairs and Public Education, has returned from Alexandrovo, Siberia, where he and a mission team of 10

from the Memorial Drive United Methodist Church assisted an orphanage in this central Siberian village. Assistance included

rebuilding stairs, new tile floor in the kitchen, new kitchen equipment, new felt boots for the children, medical supplies, and more.

He reports their mission team represented the first Americans to ever set foot in this remote Siberian village and plans are in place

to return next June. The effort is coordinated by the Russian Peace Foundation in Moscow and United Methodist Church...Dr.

Robert Tcholakian, Interdisciplinary Research, had his paper, "Durability of anti-infective effect of long-term silicone sheath

catheters impregnated with antimicrobial agents" selected for the Journal Highlights section of ASM News.

EVENTS TO KNOW

Open enrollment health insurance meetings all from noon to 1 p.m.

July 13, UCT 1505C;

July 16, LBJ UT Auditorium.

July 17, MSB 3.001

Details: www.utsystem.edu/EGI/

UT Health Services Open House

July 17, 7000 Fannin, Suite 1620, 3-5 p.m.

Details: Brendal McLoughlin, ext. 3261

UT-Houston 9th Annual Golf Tournament

Sept. 24, Houstonian Golf Club

Details: www.uth.tmc.edu/golf

Office of Community Affairs and Public Education
Temporary FAX: 713-500-3785
E-mail: m.darla.brown@uth.tmc.edu