

SCOOP

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

Thursday, Aug. 2, 2001

OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION WITH UT-H PRESIDENT WILLERSON, SEPT. 25
UT-Houston President James T. Willerson will be having a series of open forum discussions with the faculty and staff of UT-H. The talks are designed to facilitate communication between administration and employees. The talks will begin at noon and last for approximately one hour. The Medical School Open Forum, in MSB 3.001, is Tues., Sept. 25.

MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY PROMOTION AND TENURE PROCESS PRESENTATIONS NEXT WEEK

All faculty and departmental administrative staff are invited to attend a two-part session sponsored by the Office of Faculty Affairs. Part I will cover the Medical School Faculty Promotion and Tenure Process. In Part II there will be an informative session on the Curriculum Vitae format.

Thurs., Aug. 9 2.103 MSB 4 -6 p.m.
Fri., Aug. 10 2.103 MSB 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Information will be offered on the following and will conclude with a Q&A:

PART I: Criteria and Steps in the Promotion Process
Responsibilities of the faculty member and department chair
FAPTC Review Process

PART II: Assembling your Curriculum Vitae in the Medical School format

Questions, contact Mary Cole, Faculty Affairs 500-5100.

HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT HOSTS FREE HEALTH FAIRS

Two back-to-school health fairs with free services will be held, hosted by the Harris County Hospital District. They are: the Harris-Aldine Health Center, 4755 Aldine Mail route, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon., Aug. 6, and the Harris-Gulfgate Health Center, 7550 Office City Drive, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat., Aug. 11. There will be with free school immunizations, health screenings for diabetes, cholesterol and high blood pressure;

information booths on area agencies, and games and entertainment. For more information, call 281-985-7600.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES TAX BREAK THIS WEEKEND

Once again parents and kids can save local and state sales taxes for clothing and footwear items priced under \$100, on back-to-school clothes and shoes this weekend, Aug. 3-5. There will be a tax on backpacks, jewelry, football pants and baseball cleats. The state sales tax is 6.25 percent and the total sales tax in Houston is 8.25 percent. Said comptroller Carole Keeton Ryland, "I don't know any weekend that Texans appreciate more."

UT BOOKSTORE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Anne Fefer, director, UT Bookstore, JFB G.753, says the UT Bookstore, with an unfinished floor at the moment, due to flood damage, is now open for business. Anne says "Ask for a magic marker, and draw or sign your name on the floor. We have to do something creative!" The best rendering won't get you a trip for two to Cancun, but "we'll stand and applaud you."

Hours of operation are Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Books are arriving daily and Anne adds "We are currently restocking inventory and hope to have all textbooks in prior to the first day of class."

EVENTS TO KNOW

Fri., Aug. 3 --Attention: 3rd and 4th Year Students, "Learn about Family Practice!," noon – 1 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery. Sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, free lunch for the first 40 attendees. No rsvp necessary.

Mon., Tues., Aug. 6, 7 -- Camp Allen, Freshman Retreat.

Mon., Tues., Aug. 6,7 -- Basic Radiation Safety Course, 9 a.m. – noon, DBB#132. For more information call 713-500-5840.

Tues., Aug. 7 -- Dr. Elizabeth Goodman, Children's Hospital Medical Center/Cincinnati, "The Role of Social Status in the Development of Health Disparities: Focus on Youth," noon, Rm. 102 B, SPH.

Wed., Aug. 8 -- Medical School Orientation for entering students, 7:45 a.m. – 5 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery.

Wed., Aug. 8 -- White Coat Ceremony, 6:30 p.m., Hornberger Conference Center.

Mon., Aug. 13--First day of class for entering Medical School students.

Tues., Aug. 14 -- OB-GYN lecture, Dr. Pamela Promecene, "Antepartum Care," 4 p.m., MSB 3.258.

Sun., Aug. 19 -- Doctors Orchestra of Houston performs, 3 p.m., Museum of Health and Medical Science.

Tues., Aug. 21 -- OB-GYN lecture, Dr. Pamela Berens, "Management of Labor," 4 p.m., MSB 3.216.

Tues., Aug. 28 -- OB-GYN lecture, Dr. Pamela Berens, "Intrapartum/Postpartum Care," 4 p.m., MSB 3.258.

Thurs., Aug. 23 -- Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Grand Rounds, Dr. Robert Jahrsdoerfer, "Congenital Aural Atresia," 7:15 a.m., MSB 3.301.

UTMOST INTEREST

Dr. Victoria Knutson has been selected to become Assistant Dean of Admissions, Graduate School of Biological Sciences(GSBS). She is presently an associate professor in the Department of Integrative Biology & Pharmacology. Dr. Knutson studies subcellular interactions with insulin. She is particularly interested in the cross-talk between the insulin and estrogen signal transduction pathways, especially in malignant transformations such as breast cancer.

Dr. Stanford Goldman, Radiology, is vice president/president-elect to the American Society of Emergency Radiology. Dr. Goldman also is second vice president of the Texas Radiological Society.

Dr. O. Clark West, Radiology, has been elected secretary in the American Society of Emergency Radiology.

Dr. William Dowhan, John S. Dunn, Sr., Chair and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, was an invited speaker at the International Symposium on Yeast Lipids in Svendborg, Sweden in May, the FEBS sponsored Cargese Lectures on Biomembranes in Corsica, France in June, and the Gordon Research Conference on Molecular and Cellular Biology of Lipids in Meriden, NH in July. He was also appointed to the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Biosciences of Lipids (ICBL). The ICBL has been organizing international meetings since 1953.

Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, has been appointed to a working group on the pathophysiology of obesity-associated cardiovascular disease by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

NIH PUBLICLY RELEASES ITS REPORT ON STEM CELLS

The full National Institutes of Health report, Stem Cells: Scientific Progress and Future Research Directions, is available on the NIH Web site at: www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/scireport.htm. The summary report on the state of scientific knowledge of stem cells was requested by Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson.

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND AWARD PROGRAM IN PATHOGENESIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

This program provides \$400,000 over five years. It's intended to shed light on the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenge. Research on under-studied infectious diseases, including pathogenic fungi, metazoan parasites, and emerging viral diseases is especially of interest. Up to two candidates can be nominated. Faculty interested in this award should contact the Office of Research Services (ORS) at 713-500-3075, or e-mail research@admin4.uth.hsc.tmc.edu, by Oct. 12, 2001. Check the web site www.bwfund.org/infectious_pathogenesis.htm.

NOT GETTING ANY THINNER

There are 97 million Americans overweight. Obesity treatment requires lifelong support, dedication, discipline and motivation. The rise of obesity is associated with an increased risk of developing high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. And the rate of childhood obesity and other chronic morbid conditions associated with obesity have nearly doubled in the past ten years.

Dr. Deepa Vasudevan, medical director, UT Physicians/West Loop, and certified in bariatric medicine (weight management) discusses why dietary intervention and physician supervision aid in weight management, at the UTPhysicians Health News website, see www.utdocs.com or call 1-888-4-88-3627.

ON THE MOVE

The Office of Educational Programs has primarily relocated to MSI, phone 713-500-5140. "We are scattered throughout the building and coping with difficult conditions," said Dr. Patricia Butler.

UNIVERSITY DINING & CATERING SERVICES REINSTATES LIMITED CATERING OPERATIONS

University Dining & Catering Services has reinstated a limited catering service. Note that catering services will be made available on a first-come/first-serve basis, as equipment at the Dental Branch has a limited production capacity.

In order to schedule a catered event, contact ARAMARK'S General Manager, Michael Eaglen, at 713-500-4279, to ensure University Dining & Catering Services has the ability to meet your catering needs.

Secondly, complete the on-line catering requisition at:
<http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/foodserv/index.html>.

If you have any additional questions, contact Doug Bowerman, Director, Food Service, Vending and Travel at 713-500-8403.

QUALITY CARE RESEARCH RFPs

RFPs (Request for Proposals) have been issued by the Academic Medicine and Managed Care Forum. See www.academicforum.org

The purpose of these research funds is to support innovative applied research having a direct impact on patient health.

More than \$26 million has been awarded since 1997; last year, \$7 million was awarded overall to fund 28 grants.

The Aetna grant focuses on research addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health care/ interventions (and their effectiveness) in four areas: quality improvement, physician/patient communication, implementation of evidence based guidelines, and utilization of cultural competence methods. Each grantee can receive \$300,000 in direct costs for up to three years.

The Novartis grant focuses on noncompliance with medications/chronic diseases. Grantees can receive \$125,000 in direct costs.

Since the number of applications is limited and the UT System is the applicant organization, grant proposals must be submitted to the UT System. To meet the deadline of Sept. 28, submit your proposal to the Dean's Office by Wed., Sept. 12. Note that review and approval by the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) should precede submission to the Dean's Office. The OSP is located in UCT #790, telephone

713-500-5847.

For questions about the program, contact Dennis Oakes, <oakesd@aetna.com>

PAYROLL AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS – NEW WEB ADDRESSES

The new address for Payroll is <http://payroll.hsc.uth.tmc>.

The new address for Benefits is <http://benefits.hsc.uth.tmc>.

Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

Temporary FAX: 713-500-0602

E-mail: Colleen.L.OBrien@uth.tmc.edu