



# Scoop

Fri., March 29, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### March

**29 Today, UT-Pathology Research Seminar, Dr. Ian Orme,** Colorado State University, "Use of Animal Models to Predict Potential New Vaccines for Tuberculosis," noon, MSB 2.024.

### April

**1 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series. Dr. Randy Hampton,** "Ubiquitin and Cholesterol," noon, MSB 2.135.

**8 Health Care & the Arts Lecture Series.** "In Memoriam: September 11th and Other Calamities," **Dr. John Lienhard,** noon, MSB 3.001.

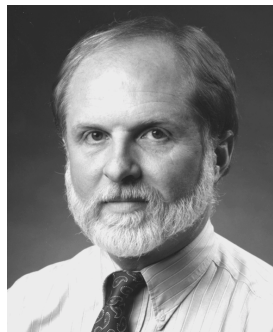
## UTMost Interest

Five physicians at the Medical School are featured in the April issue of *Reader's Digest*. They are quoted in "Blackout," a story about the heroic efforts of health-care workers and volunteers during Tropical Storm Allison. They are: **Dr. Craig Fischer,** Surgery; **Dr. Christine Cocanour,** Surgery; **Dr. Donald Parks,** Surgery; **Dr. Anthony Estrera,** Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery; and **Dr. Joseph Nates,** Neurosurgery...**Dr. Stanford M. Goldman,** Radiology, was newly elected president of the American Society for Emergency Radiology at their recent annual meeting in Orlando. He will serve for two years, 2002-2004.

**OF NOTE - Dr. David Loose-Mitchell,** associate professor, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and president, the American Heart Association Texas Affiliate, announced that the organization is awarding more than \$800,000 in matching grants to help rural communities purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs). Loose-Mitchell said the grants enable 189 agencies in 93 counties to purchase almost 800 of the live-saving devices, which are used to restart the heart when a person suffers a sudden cardiac arrest.

## DEAN'S LECTURER, DR. HUDSPETH, TO ADDRESS HEARING LOSS

Thirty million Americans have significant hearing problems, ranging in severity from modest difficulty with speech comprehension to profound deafness. The common name for this condition is "nerve deafness," but sensorineural hearing loss usually results from damage to the sensory cells of the inner ear, rather than to the associated nerve.



Dr. A. James Hudspeth

An expert in the biology of sound, **Dr. A. James Hudspeth, M.D., Ph.D.,** the F. M. Kirby Professor and head of the Laboratory of Sensory Neuroscience at The Rockefeller University and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will be the next Dean's Lecturer at 4 p.m., Wed., **April 17,** in MSB 3.001. He will address "How Hearing Happens: Mechanoelectrical Transduction and Amplification by Hair Cells."

Dr. Hudspeth's research focuses on the biophysical bases of mechanoelectrical transduction. He also investigates the calcium and potassium channels that underlie the hair cell's frequency tuning and the release of synaptic transmitters. Some of his recent research is in molecular markers for inner-ear cells and candidate genes for hearing disorders; characterization of inner-ear antigens by the use of recombinant antibodies; and genetic analysis of zebra fish's acousticolateralis sensory system.

On becoming a scientist, Dr. Hudspeth has said, "The features that help make a good or a great scientist really are not some of the ones that our society most often points to." What scientists need are "ideas that run counter to some preconceived notions" and "a lot of time and a lot of patience."

## DR. MAUREEN MAYES SEEKS ANSWERS TO SCLERODERMA CAUSE

Scleroderma is a group of diseases that can damage not only the skin, making it hard and tight, but also the blood vessels and internal organs, such as the heart, lungs, and kidneys. The exact cause of the disease is unknown. Approximately 300,000 people in the U.S. have scleroderma. **Dr. Maureen D. Mayes,** a new faculty member and professor of medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics, said "We know a lot more about the disease than we did 20 years ago, but we still don't know the answers to fundamental questions about what causes it and what cures it." Dr. Mayes, formerly with Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, also is the director and principal investigator of the UT-Houston-based National Scleroderma Family Registry and DNA Repository.



Dr. Maureen D. Mayes

The overall goal of the research is to identify genes that influence susceptibility to scleroderma. For the registry, which is supported by the National Institutes of Health, researchers are collecting blood samples from 500 scleroderma patients who have no known case of the disease in their family. Researchers believe that several factors, including abnormal immune activity, potential environmental triggers, and genetic makeup, may interact to produce scleroderma.



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2002 GRADUATING CLASS SPECIALTY CHOICES FEATURED**UT-H MEDICAL SCHOOL MATCH DAY, MARCH 21, 2002**

“The Match,” as it is known nationally, is conducted annually by the National Resident Matching Program. It is the primary system that matches applicants to residency programs with available positions at U.S. teaching hospitals. More than 23,000 applicants nationwide found out which residency program they will enter for training. Interest in medical specialties, including anesthesiology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and diagnostic radiology, appear to be on the rise.



Members of the class of 2002 and their families congratulate each other.



Dean Max Buja (r.), looks on as a member of the class of 2002 picks up her residency program information.

Out of 212 UT-H Medical School graduates, 38 will stay at UT-Houston and 69 at other locations in Texas. The number of UT students entering the following specialties are: Internal Medicine:39; Family Practice:32; Pediatrics:23; Anesthesiology:17; Surgery:15; Obstetrics/Gynecology:14; Emergency Medicine:11; Radiology-Diagnostic:7; Otolaryngology:6; Pathology:6; Psychiatry:6; Internal Medicine/Pediatrics:5; Orthopaedic Surgery:5; Transitional:5; Urology:3; Dermatology:2; Neurology:2; Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery:2; Physical Med/Rehab:2; Surgery/Preliminary:2; Neurological Surgery:1; Ophthalmology:1; and Radiation Oncology:1.

- Photos by Ester Fant

**MARCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - CATHERINE MOORE**

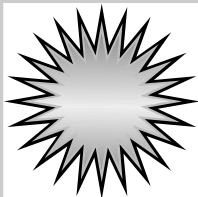
You can never stop the wheels of change, but this time it appears the wheel has turned full circle. Almost four years ago, May 8, 1998, **Catherine Moore**, senior grants/contracts specialist in the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP), and our March Employee of the Month, was named Employee of the Month in *Scoop*. Cathy is a 31-year veteran employee of the medical field. She is known for her willingness to go the extra mile. Her skill at explaining the intricacies of grant applications

—even when firm deadlines are pressing—has not been missed by those who nominated her as an example of an outstanding employee.

“We partner with each and every principal investigator,” Cathy will tell you. “Our motto is ‘Whatever it takes.’”

Cathy’s pride these days is triplefold: she’s proud of her team for getting OSP up and running and processing grants immediately after Tropical Storm Allison. “The storm hit on a Friday, we worked at home the following Monday, and were back processing grants on Tuesday.” She’s also proud of her work in assisting 30 to 35 faculty who were successful in receiving additional funding from the National Institutes of Health, due to Tropical Storm Allison. And she’s proud of her efforts in helping **Dr. Guy Clifton**, chair, Department of Neurosurgery, and a nationally recognized hypothermia expert, procure his research grants. Cathy is well informed about NIH guidelines and procedures as well as the rules and regulations for other sponsoring agencies. “The doctors recognize that we’re here to help them and not to get in the way. Even though we’re housed in temporary quarters at UCT 790, we strive to continue to provide the highest quality service to the faculty.”

Obviously a valued employee, she must be doing something right.



**Catherine Moore**