



Scoop

Dec. 20, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

January

6 Dr. Steven Almo, "Structural Biology in the Third Millennium," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.

UTMost Interest

This year's Physician of the Year winners for the Memorial Hermann System are **Dr. Ed**



Parsley, Internal Medicine/Pulmonary, for Memorial Hermann Hospital, and **Dr. Terri Major-Kincade**, Pediatrics, for Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital...**Dr. Stanley Lewis**, Internal Medicine, was interviewed by Fox News 26 on Dec. 1, regarding World AIDS Day activities...**Dr. Deepa Vasudevan**, Family Practice & Community Medicine, recently became board-certified in bariatric medicine...**Dr. Ronald Portman**, Pediatrics/Pediatric Nephrology and Hypertension, was elected an Associate Member of the American Board of Pediatrics...Three teams from the Medical School this year participated in the American Heart Association walk on Nov. 2, and won a \$3,000 grant for the Medical School. "We sponsored several survivors of heart bypass surgeries; most of us had never participated in a walkathon before. We met the challenge and we are so proud of our teams!" said **Valerie Goodwin**, Management Information Systems and a team captain.

MERCADO-DEANE'S PROJECT NETS AAWR GRANT AWARD

Have you ever thought about your body's ability to swallow? **Dr. Gisela Mercado-Deane**, associate professor, Radiology and Pediatrics, has. Mercado-Deane is a recipient of the American Association of Women Radiologists (AAWR) Research and Education Foundation Seed Grant award for her research project titled, "Development of Rheologic Equivalents of Barium Preparations and Fluid Meals for Videofluoroscopy Swallowing Studies." She was presented this award at the 88th Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Radiologic Society of North America, in Chicago, Dec. 1-6.



Dr. Mercado-Deane

"Swallowing is a mechanism that is present in utero, and as the fetus grows, swallowing matures," said Mercado-Deane. "Because of the advances in perinatology and neonatology, younger and smaller prematures are surviving. Outside of the womb environment and

because of some of the medical interventions, like endotracheal intubations and orogastric tube feedings, and problems like intracranial hemorrhages—acquiring feeding and swallowing skills can be delayed and even lost."

The manifestations of swallowing dysfunction are many. Some of them are: dribbling while nipping, oral weakness with multiple sucks per swallow, coughing and choking while feeding, regurgitation of formula through the nose, and reflux. Some of the consequences of swallowing dysfunction include failure to thrive and pneumonias.

This condition normally is recognized in the first year of life. With premies, because of multiple clinical symptoms, diagnosis may not occur until respiratory problems and even pneumonia has set in. Infants that are not diagnosed and treated are at risk for, not only pneumonias and failure to thrive, but they may even develop feeding aversions.

Mercado-Deane hopes, through her research efforts, to objectively diagnose and treat swallowing dysfunctions and to make an impact on the life of infants and children, preventing acute and chronic lung diseases. She utilizes a videofluoroscopic study to ascertain a swallowing dysfunction. It may suggest therapeutic intervention, such as thickening the feedings to different consistencies. - C. O'Brien

EDUCATORS WILL ENHANCE THEIR SKILLS IN KICKOFF JAN. 6

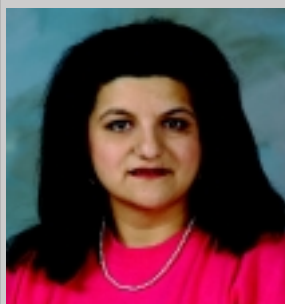
Faculty are invited to hear "Teaching Smarter: Enhancing Skills in Education," a talk by **Sheila Chauvin, Ph.D.**, director, Office of Medical Education Research and Development, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, 4 p.m., Mon., **Jan. 6**, MSB, 2.103. The talk is a kickoff for Initiatives for Educator Development. For a schedule and registration information, visit the program Web site at: <www.med.uth.tmc.edu/edprog/facdev/index.htm>.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THREE HAMAH SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Three UT-H medical students—**Dalia G. Galicia**, **Emily Marie Triana**, and **Manuel M. Reyes**—were recognized for their outstanding achievement and each received a scholarship at a recent Hispanic American Association of Houston (HAMAH) scholarship dinner. Congratulations.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Rosalinda Deaver, featured February Employee of the Month, is our Employee of the



Rosalinda Deaver

Year. Rosalinda is a senior support specialist in the Office of Associate Dean for Management. She is known for her friendliness, her concern for the medical students, and for her bilingual assistance. Congratulations!



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A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

My holiday message this year is about family. We are a family of health-care providers who in one capacity or another are all about helping others. No matter what your role is at this School – whether it be support staff, student, or chairman of a department – you've chosen a service profession that places a premium on helping others.

The holidays before us, prior to beginning a new year, afford each of us an opportunity to take pause and reflect on our many accomplishments as a medical family and as individuals in this community. Take pride in all that you do and the many accomplishments of our collective medical family. I also urge you to take the time to appreciate your own family and that silent support each of us enjoys. It is the support and encouragement of family and close friends that is often underrecognized and appreciated, yet it is so important to our daily accomplishments and ability to help others. Take a moment during these holidays to reflect on how important the family support is in your life and tell them.

In a world dominated by headlines of terrorism, war, and yes – recovery from floods and other natural disasters – it is important to focus on all that is good in the world and the many personal accomplishments you have. Donna and I extend our very best wishes to each of you and to your families for this holiday season. As in the past, a donation to Goodfellows and the Adopt –A- Family program at LBJ General Hospital will be donated as part of this Dean's message.

Sincerely,

L. Maximilian Buja, MD

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.
Dean

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING



Members of the Faculty Wives & Women Faculty who recently volunteered to stuff holiday cards for the Dean's Office, (from l. to r.): Sharon Faro, Carol Murad, Donna Buja, Susan Byrne, Adrian Melissinos, and Lynne Arnett.