



Scoop

Nov. 8, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

November

- 12 Dr. Jie Zheng**, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will address "Shedding Light on Ion Channel Activation with Fluorescence and FRET," noon, MSB 6.018B.
- 13 Dean's Lecturer, Dr. Owen Witte**, noon, MSB 3.001.
- 15 14th Annual William S. Fields Lecture, Dr. Susan Spencer**, Yale University, on epilepsy surgery, 4 p.m., MSB 2.135.
- 16 Doctors Orchestra of Houston**, "East Meets West," 7 p.m., Cullen Theatre, Wortham Center. Call 713-666-9231.

REMINDER – Crafters! Tables still available to rent for the Arts and Crafts Fair, Thurs., **Dec. 5**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery. Call **Beverly Head**, 713-500-6512.

UTMost Interest

"Recollections and Interconnections" was the theme of a gala black-tie evening Sat., Nov. 2, celebrating the UTHSC-H's 30th anniversary, at the Omni Houston Hotel. **Dr. James Willerson**, UTHSC-H president, said the institution "has done some very good things and has a very bright future...it is poised to do great things." **UT Chancellor Mark Yudof** was in attendance. Corporate sponsors were: James Lee Witt Associates, L.L.C., Health Directions, L.L.C., Vaughn Construction, Aztec Facility Services, P&W Architects, L.L.P., JP Morgan Chase, Central Market, Profiles International, Inc., Accelerated Receivables Management, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, and Crestone International...For the second time in three years, **Dr. Jack Crawford** and colleagues in Ophthalmology, received the International Glaucoma Research Award for their research publications.

ANDRASSY'S NEW HERNIA REPAIR METHOD IS A HIT

Dr. Richard J. Andrassy, professor and chairman, Department of Surgery, has been deluged with phone calls since news of his innovative, three-dimensional mesh repair, called the PROLENE Hernia System, for inguinal, incisional, or umbilical hernias, under general or local anesthesia, done in less than 30 minutes, has gotten out. The surgical technique was featured in the *Houston Chronicle* and on the local news. "I have literally had hundreds of patients calling trying to schedule surgery and to see me in the office. Publicizing this new repair has been a real boon to the department, and I have been able to not only increase my own practice, but send numerous patients to some of my junior faculty," Andrassy said. Andrassy currently is training other doctors on how to implant the device.



Dr. Richard Andrassy also is the new chairman of the surgical section of the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition, Andrassy also has been selected by the American College of Surgeons to be on the Governors Committee on chapter activities.

PROGNOSIS FOR MED SCHOOL APPLICATIONS LOOKS GOOD

While almost 34,000 people applied to U.S. medical schools in 2002 — continuing a six-year decline — preliminary data for 2003 released by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), indicate that this decline may be coming to an end. Based on the number of individuals who took the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) in 2002 and initial applications to date, the number of medical school applicants is projected to increase by 4 to 6 percent in 2003. "With our nation facing new health challenges and a possible physician shortage, the apparent flagging interest in the medical profession, as reflected by the shrinking applicant pool over the last several years, has been cause for some concern," said AAMC President Jordan J. Cohen, M.D. "These early projections for 2003, however, provide hope that this six-year decline may finally be over."

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TEXAS HEALTH CARE COMMITTEES

The Texas Health Care Information Council (THCIC), created by the Texas Legislature in 1995, is seeking interested individuals to serve on one of its technical advisory committees. The THCIC collects performance data from Texas HMOs and from Texas hospitals, and turns the data into reports to help consumers select their providers.

To apply, simply complete an application and send it in. Applicants can serve on one or more committees: the Quality Methods Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the Provider Quality TAC, the Consumer Education TAC, the Health Maintenance Organization TAC, and the Health Information Systems TAC. "Serving on a TAC is a way to have your opinion make a difference," Jim Loyd, executive director, said. Applications are available at www.thcic.state.tx.us, and click on "About THCIC." Or contact **Dee Shaw** at 1-512-482-3312. Faxed applications can be accepted at 512-453-2757.



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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



HATS OFF TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS OF RESEARCH DAY 2002!

Winners of the 20th Annual McGovern GSBS Student Poster Contest, held Nov. 1, at the TMC Hornberger Auditorium, are: Masters Category - First prize: **Eugena Pixley** (Adviser: **Dr. Jocelyne Bachevalier**), Second prize: **Darin Tessier** (Adviser: **Dr. Molly Bray**), Third prize: **Evan Johnson** (Adviser: **Dr. Diane Cody**); Ph.D. Pre-Candidacy Category - First prize: **Joseph Cordella** (Adviser: **Dr. Patrick Dougherty**), Second prize: **Jing Zhang** (Adviser: **Dr. Gary Gallick**), Third prize: tie, **Tai-Lung Cha** (Adviser: **Dr. Mien-Chie Hung**) and **Julio Morales** (Adviser: **Dr. Philip Carpenter**); and Ph.D. Post-Candidacy Category, First prize: **Meredith Moore** (Adviser: **Dr. Jeannie McMillin**), Second prize: **Joye Purser** (Adviser: **Dr. Steven Norris**), Third prize: **Xiaoyan Wang** (Adviser: **Dr. Lawrence Lachman**).



Masters category second-prize winner Darin Tessier discusses his poster with onlookers.

Second-year medical student winners of the 2002 C. Frank Webber Prize for Student Research Competition, held during the Research Forum at the Medical School on Oct. 31, are: First Place: **Elizabeth Warner**, "COUP-TFII and GATA-4 but not USF play a role in CPT-1 β regulation," sponsored by **Dr. Jeanie McMillin**, Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Second Place: **John Munz**, "Geometrical analysis of fracture patterns in intra-articular distal tibia (pilon) fractures," sponsored by **Dr. Dhiren Sheth**, Dept. of Orthopaedics; and Third Place: **Craig Messick**, "Gastric emptying following traumatic shock," sponsored by **Drs. Rosemary Kozar and Christine Cocanour**, Dept. of Surgery.

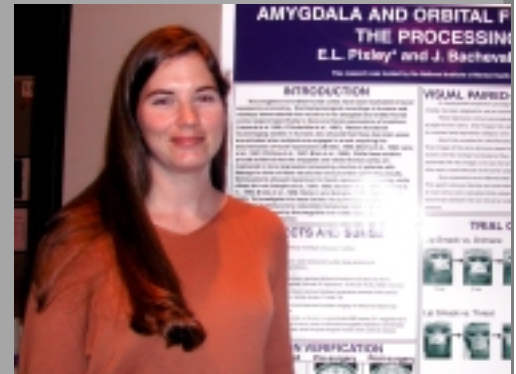
Their winning posters also were displayed at UTHSC-H Research Day at the Hornberger, on Nov. 1.

Behind the scenes were numerous personnel who made the GSBS poster session work, including: **Karen Mitchell**, UTHSCH Research Day Organizer; **Dr. Tom Goka**, assistant dean, GSBS, Poster Session Planning; **Jeryl Silverman**, GSBS Abstract Booklet Preparation; **Bunny Perez**, administrative assistance; and all the judges: **Drs. Jiale Dai, Mandri Obeyesekere, Ke-He Ruan, Subrata Sen, Judith Smith, W. Roy Smythe, Ratna Vadlamudi, Qingyi Wei, and Joya Chandra**.

Congratulations to all winners, participants, and supporters.



Keith Chan explains his work to Dr. Joya Chandra, one of the judges.



Masters category first-prize winner Eugena Pixley shows off her poster.

MS Graduate Education Committee Awards went to - First prize, **Qi Shen** (Adviser: **Dr. Peter Davies**); Second prize, **Jose Rivera** (Adviser: **Dr. Heidi Kaplan**); and Third prize, **Joye Purser** (Adviser: **Dr. Steven Norris**).



Hetty Wang discusses her project with an interested listener.



Sandy Soliz, Educational Programs, fields questions on the Summer Research Program.