



# Scoop

Aug. 1, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### August

**6 First John P. McGovern Town Meeting in Molecular Imaging**, 4 - 5:30 p.m., **Jose-Maria Carazo**, Ph.D., speaker, at **Trevisio's** restaurant. Call **Dr. Yao Cong**, 713-500-3967.

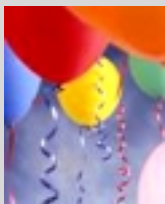
**13 White Coat Ceremony**, 6:30 p.m., Hornberger Conference Center.

## UTMost Interest

**John H. Byrne, Ph.D.**, professor and chairman, Neurobiology and Anatomy, has been invited to lecture this August at the RIKEN Brain Science Institute 2003 Summer Program in Japan...**Dr. William C. McGarvey**, assistant professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and director of Foot and Ankle Surgery, recently was elected to the board of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society...**Eva Rodriguez**, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, is the new vice president, Employee Relations Committee.

## DON'T MISS A HARD HAT HAPPENING!

Kickoff celebration for Medical School Ground Floor Reconstruction --



With updates, cookies, and punch  
All faculty, residents, students, and staff invited

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Tues., Aug. 12

(Brief remarks by **Drs. Willerson, Schultz, Buja**, and **David Healey**, acting vice president, Facilities, Planning & Engineering, at 11:30 a.m.)



Leather Lounge - UT Medical School at Houston.

## Q/A WITH DR. STANLEY SCHULTZ, INTERIM DEAN

Editor's note:

On June 27 **Dean Maximilian Buja** was named Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs for the UT Health Science Center at Houston's six schools and affiliated programs. **Dr. Stanley Schultz**, a long-time faculty member who has served the School in a variety of leadership roles along with international recognition for his teaching and research, was named Interim Dean. Only several weeks into his new role, Dr. Schultz sat down to provide EScoop readers more insights on his new role as interim dean, along with the challenges and opportunities that attracted him to his new position.



Dr. Stanley Schultz

**Q - You've been with this medical school nearly 25 years and have witnessed many changes in recent years in academic medicine. What first attracted you to join UT-Houston and what's your read on where the School is in its growth and development?**

**A -** The reality is, I had turned down taking a look at the chair of physiology twice before – once when **Dr. Cheves Smythe** was dean and once when **Dr. Bob Tuttle** was dean. But when **Rusty Johnson**, who was the acting chair at the time and a friend of mine, asked me to stop by during a trip, I was dazzled by the School — its newness and freshness, and Houston was a growing city. I was excited by the prospect of helping develop a great school in what was promising to be a great city. The School is going through growing pains. It has had its ups and downs but has a bright future ahead of it. Many of our problems are problems many medical schools are facing today, but with creative leadership and faith in the future, we'll straighten them out.

**Q - Dr. Schultz, you've been a chairman of a department, vice chairman, a course director with numerous teaching awards, and an internationally recognized researcher. Why take on the challenge of becoming interim dean during such complex times in academic medicine and health-care delivery?**

**A -** It is a new and exciting challenge, and that's why I am taking it on. I've been a chairman, and a professor – which is still the best of all jobs. An M.D. by training, I've taught medical students throughout their four years, and I've been in the basic science as well as the clinical areas. I feel I'll be able to bring something to the school at this time.

**Q - As interim dean, what are some of your immediate priorities and do you have any information on what the search process will be and how long to appoint the next dean? Are you also a candidate for the deanship?**

**A -** The search process will be launched with the appointment of the members of the search committee by the end of summer. I have no intention of being dean and will not serve on the committee but will be willing to help. We'll be moving quickly on this matter. (Continued on back page).



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

Stanley Schultz, M.D., Interim Dean  
Darla Brown, Director  
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu  
Colleen O'Brien, Editor  
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu  
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597

E-Scoop online:

[http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community\\_affairs/escoop.htm](http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm)  
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



**Q/A WITH DR. STANLEY SCHULTZ, INTERIM DEAN, CONTINUED**

I would encourage a national search and expect that it will be. I hope the interim dean position will not last longer than two years.

**Q - You are well recognized for your dedication to students and education. Given all the attention given to managed care and the clinical income that is necessary to operate this academic enterprise, how do**

**we keep a focus on the education mission?**

**A -** Many people have been concerned about the issue of providing a clinical education at a time when managed care is putting enormous pressures on our clinicians. Part of the solution depends on leadership, not only from the dean but also from the chairmen and clerkship directors, who must all be on the same page.

In addition, we need to realize that the education of future physicians is an honor and privilege, not a punishment. To this end, **Dr. Max Buja** established with **Dr. Patricia Butler** a master-teacher program so faculty can spend time with students – time they really need. I plan to bolster the monies dedicated to this program to see if we can't extend it and include more outstanding educators. I hope we can raise sufficient funds to establish an Academy of Scholars, as have other medical schools, dedicated to the recognition of outstanding educators and supporting their efforts.

**Q - On the topic of teaching, what is your secret to great teaching? Students have been known to applaud your lectures in mammalian physiology. You were the President's Scholar for 2000, have been voted by medical students in recent years as the Best Lecturer, and you were named in 1999 by the American Physiological Society as the Arthur C. Guyton Teacher of the Year. Do you have a secret formula and as interim dean, how will you support teaching at this School?**

**A -** Without time, you can't teach. But, in addition, I think the secret of teaching is to love the subject you're teaching and to love the audience you're delivering the education to. To quote Yeats, "Education is not simply filling a bucket, it's lighting a fire." I try to light a fire, to think out of the box and give true inspiration to our students. My youngest son, an associate professor at UCLA, said the purpose of a lecture is to inspire, not to inform. I'm glad he caught on!

**Q - One of the strengths of this Medical School is that a number of our former deans remain on faculty and are available resources. Dr. Buja, now in the role of Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs for all six of our UT Health Science Center at Houston schools, would seem to be a tremendous resource. How do you see your working relationship with Dr. Buja's new role in Academic Affairs?**

**A -** I think he's a perfect choice and I look forward to working with him. I've had good contact with him since he assumed that role. I admire him and all of the former deans who are here, **Dr. John Ribble** and **Dr. Smythe**. There is no school to become dean, so you're wise to seek advice from those who've gone through it and are willing to help.

**Q - Flood recovery from Tropical Storm Allison has been a two-year challenge and much is now taking place to get the School back better than it was before. Any thoughts on how that is going and what your expectations are for that recovery?**

**A -** I'm the heir of two individual's hard work – **Dr. James Willerson**, who was able to get funding from a starving Legislature, and **Dr. Buja**,

who was a wonderful steward throughout the flood. I will be shepherding the restoration and our goal is not only to restore the School but also to make it better than ever. I'm going to try to see to it that we, within budget, make our teaching compatible with the technological era we are in. We should be wireless in many areas and should have the very best in terms of information technology. It will be very exciting. But it will come at a cost. The next two years will be difficult. We will have construction work going on in the basement and ground floor, which will be nothing compared to the disruption when work begins on the new vivarium (animal care facility), which will cause a lot of unavoidable noise. We'll have to look to the rainbow at the end of the storm.

**Q - We are going through the LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) reaccreditation process. How is that process going?**

**A -** Reaccreditation is my number one immediate priority for the School. With the last visit seven years ago, we received full seven-year accreditation. Now the LCME has gone up to eight years and my goal is to achieve a full eight years of accreditation. The LCME visit is scheduled for January 2004 and our report is due in October of this year. Working on this report with Dr. Butler and the other members of our Task Force will be one of my major priorities during the next few months.

**Q - I understand that as interim dean, you will focus more on the academic side of the School's mission and Dr. Richard Andrassy as Associate Dean for Clinical Operations will focus on the clinical practice plan issues. How is that working and what advantages do you see from this new approach?**

**A -** Dr. Andrassy and I didn't really know each other well prior to my assuming the deanship, but since then we've had a number of terrific conversations. I'm sure we see eye to eye on the core mission of the School – the discovery and dissemination of knowledge. These are the same core missions of any academic unit of a great university. In addition we must engage in the highest quality clinical service for the education of students and trainees, and the performance of clinical research. Dr. Andrassy agrees with that completely.

**Q - You are a medical historian, a well-recognized physiologist, and world-traveled physician. What are some of the big picture issues you see for health care in this nation and what are some of the strengths of this Medical School, our UT Health Science Center at Houston, and Texas Medical Center that keep you as energetic as you always are?**

**A -** I think there is no question that this country is at the forefront of medical discovery and much of the medical advances the world benefits from have had their origins in research efforts carried out in this country. Regrettably, I feel the health-care delivery system is not living up to the high level of our research. A recent article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* argues that 50 percent of patients with various medical conditions are not getting the recommended medical care. This is grounds for concern. Managed care is here to stay; there is no question that health care has to be managed. How the care will be managed so that all facets of our society are cared for and how we protect the dignity of the human spirit and address cultural and economic diversity is the challenge.

The Texas Medical Center and the Health Science Center are unparalleled assets to our research and educational missions. The new IMM (Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases) will offer enormous opportunities for the expansion and flourishing of our core missions. One of my goals will be to foster strong and healthy relations between the Medical School and the IMM, and to dispel the "them versus us" attitude that has sprouted among some. It should be "we," not "them versus us."