



Scoop

Dec. 12, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

December


17 Dean's Holiday Reception, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery. For all students, residents, faculty, and staff. Cookies and punch served.

CHANGE - Because of a scheduling conflict, the MSRDP Annual Meeting (originally scheduled for Jan. 28, 2004), has been moved to 4 - 6 p.m., Tues. **Jan. 20, 2004, MSB 3.001.**

All members of the MSRDP are invited and encouraged to attend. An agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

UTMost Interest

Drs. Larry Gilstrap, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, and **Jon Tyson**,

 Pediatrics, recently were quoted in the *NY Times* and other media regarding their *JAMA* editorial, which concerned a study that showed giving magnesium sulfate to women at risk for preterm birth provided a neuroprotective effect for the infants.

NOTE - The Harris County Psychiatric Center publication "Progress" can be accessed online via Internet Explorer at <http://hcpc.uth.tmc.edu/english/progress/autumn_03.htm>.

BRIDGING GRANTS DUE

Requests must be received by **Jan. 15, 2004** for a renewal grant application that has not been funded within the past nine months by a federal agency and within the top 35th percentile.

Send to **Dr. John Byrne**, MSB 7.046. Proposals up to \$30,000 for up to one year maintenance can be submitted. Include a statement letter from the PI's chairperson, a summary statement, the reviewer's comments, continuing and new research. Also provide the previous summary budget.

TANZANIAN MEDICAL MISSION BEARS A REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Doreen Rosenstrauch, M.D., Department of Internal Medicine/Cardiology, and a board member and director of International Cooperation at the Tanzania Heart Institute, and 11 other specialists



from the Texas Medical Center traveled to the Tanzania Heart Institute this year. Their visit - a first - was to teach and educate, while they conducted patient screenings and open-heart surgeries. "We are so fortunate to have top technology and expertise in the United States. We wanted to help the people of Tanzania, where cardiac disease is disproportionately high," Rosenstrauch said.

More than 40,000 Tanzanian children and adults are affected by cardiac disease each year. Forty percent of cases are congenital; while 60 percent are acquired. Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease are major causes of premature mortality and account for one-third of all cardiac disease in hospital admissions.

The Texas Medical Center team plans a second trip to the Tanzania Heart Institute in 2004. Donations are very welcome at this time, Rosenstrauch said. To learn more, visit <<http://www.TanzaniaHeartInstitute.org>> or contact Rosenstrauch at <DR@tanzaniaheartinstitute.org>.

DR. GIGLI WINS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL WOMAN AWARD

The Committee on the Status of Women Annual Awards Banquet bestowed the Distinguished Professional Woman Award on **Dr. Irma Gigli**. Gigli is a professor in the Department of Dermatology, and vice chair for research and a professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. She is the Walter and Mary Mischer professor in Molecular Medicine and deputy director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases. In addition, she directs the Research Center for Immunology and Autoimmune Diseases at the Institute of Molecular Medicine. Gigli was the first woman in this country to lead a program in dermatology. She has trained a large number of women in medicine - some of them now leaders in their own right.



(L. to R.), **Dr. Marlene Cohen, Dr. Max Buja, Ina Fried, and Karen Krakower**

The President's Awards for **Drs. Willerson and Gigli** Mentoring Women went to **Sue Sifford**/Classified Staff; **Ina Fried**/Administration & Professional; and **Joy Schmitz**/Faculty. Recipients of the Women Student Travel Award included **Omonole Ohen**, a second-year medical student, who will attend the April 2004 national meeting of the Student National Medical Association in New Orleans.



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HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



ADMISSION TO DOCTOR'S ORCHESTRA EVENT IS A TEDDY BEAR!



Doctors Orchestra of Houston will have its holiday concert at 7 p.m. Sat., **Dec. 13**, at Stude Concert Hall at Rice University.

The concert will feature the Houston Baptist University Choir, Parker Elementary Choir, Cantor Vadim Tunitsky from Temple Emanuel, Sarah Husbands on violin, and Amy Dorman, cello.

Admission to the concert is free with one teddy bear. All bears will be donated to patients at Texas Childrens Hospital and Ben Taub Hospital.

For more information, see <<http://www.doctorsorchestrahouston.org>>.

SAFETY TOPIC OF METRO PRESENTATION

METRO Police came to the Medical School Tuesday to prepare pedestrians and drivers for the safety issues that will arrive when METRORail rolls down Fannin **Jan. 1**.

Armed with pictures of jaywalkers, **Officer Harold Hewlett** reminded the audience to use the crosswalks legally by following the lighted signs.

Hewlett said there will be high police visibility along the rail line to prevent problems and encourage safety. Warnings have been issued to pedestrians and drivers for failing to follow signs, he said, and added that tickets also will be given.

Safety is a primary concern due to the fact that the rail and transit center near UCT will increase the number of pedestrians through the Texas Medical Center. In addition, 12 of the 50 most dangerous intersections are along the rail corridor, which includes one block east and west of the track.

"It's like a PlayStation 2 game out here," Hewlett said of the pedestrians and vehicles disregarding traffic signals and signs.

New signs, including a lighted train approaching sign and left turn lane open/closed will be put into operation soon, requiring motorists to take the rail into consideration when driving.

Regarding the METRO buses that ferry passengers to and from the distant parking lots, Texas Medical Center representatives said there would be no changes to the blue bus or the white bus circulars.

For more information about the rail, see <<http://www.ridemetro.org>>.

NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

- Nominations are now being accepted for the Nineteenth Annual Alton Ochsner Award Relating Smoking and Health. The award is named for Dr. Alton Ochsner, who was one of the first to associate smoking with lung cancer. The goal of the program is to conquer the devastating health problems that continue to be related to tobacco consumption. To submit a candidate's name who you think should be honored with this award, contact Edward D. Frohlich, M.D., Alton Ochsner Distinguished Scientist, Ochsner Clinic Foundation, 1514 Jefferson Highway, New Orleans, La 70121. Nominations must be received by **March 31**.

TEACHING HOSPITALS COME OUT WINNERS IN AAMC STUDY

Research studies show that teaching hospitals, in general, provide better quality of care than other institutions, according to a new report from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The report, "Quality of Care in Teaching Hospitals," reviews and analyzes 23 studies that compare quality of care in teaching hospitals to other institutions for a variety of conditions, types of patients, outcomes, and geographic locations.

"It is important that teaching hospitals take the lead not only in continuously improving their own quality but also in developing and evaluating ever improving methods of quality assessment," said Joel Kupersmith, M.D., the AAMC's scholar-in residence and author of the report.

The full report, including study summaries and data tables, is available online through the AAMC's "Ensuring Health Care Quality" Web site. For more information, see <<http://www.aamc.org/quality>>.

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COMMENCEMENT & REGALIA INFORMATION

Commencement 2004 will take place at 1 p.m. Sun., **May 30**, 2004 in the Assembly Hall of the George R. Brown Convention Center. The principal speaker will be **Andrew von Eschenbach, M.D.**, director, National Cancer Institute, formerly of The M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Orders for the rental of regalia will be taken through **Feb. 1**, 2004.

All participating faculty and their spouse or guest will be invited to a post-commencement reception honoring the commencement speaker and faculty award winners and celebrating the graduation of another class of physicians.

IMPORTANT - If you plan to participate in commencement but have your own regalia, you **MUST** notify **Rita Rivera**, 713-500-5129 or <Rita.M.Rivera@uth.tmc.edu>.

For questions and to order, please contact Student Affairs at 713-500-5160, MSB 5.202. Regalia ordered after Feb. 1 will be accepted until March 26 but will be subject to late fees of \$10-22.50.

Regalia orders will **NOT** be accepted after **March 26**. Payment must be made by check or goods request (no state funds). The payment or record of payment must be attached to EACH regalia order form. Checks should be made payable to: UT-Houston Bookstore. Prices: doctoral cap, gown and tassel, \$33; doctoral hood, \$33.