



Scoop

Jan. 24, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

January

27 Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Seminar Series, Dr. Carlos Hirschberg, "Novel Regulation of Posttranslational Modifications in the Golgi Apparatus: From Basic Science to Development to Disease," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.

February

3 Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery Grand Rounds, Dr. Randolph Chitwood, "Robotics," 7 - 8 a.m., MSB 2.135.

UTMost Interest

U.T. Health Science Center at Houston **President James T. Willerson** recently received the Scientific Councils Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Heart Association at their annual meeting in Chicago. The award recognizes his contributions to cardiovascular medicine.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Brain Awareness Week 2003 Public Forum's focus will be "The Injured Brain: Stroke and Trauma." The free event will take place 10:30 a.m. - noon Sat., **March 15**, MSB 3.001. **James "Red" Duke, Jr., M.D.**, professor of surgery and John B. Holmes Professor of Clinical Sciences, will moderate the event.

Panel discussions will be led by: **Drs. Joshua I. Breier**, associate professor of neurosurgery, Division of Clinical Neurosciences, **Gerard E. Francisco**, associate director, Brain Injury and Stroke Program, The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, and clinical associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation; **William W. Maggio**, clinical associate professor of neurosurgery, and **Marc D. Malkoff**, clinical associate professor of neurology and anesthesiology.

To register for this free event, call 713-500-5540.

GIRI OUTLINES HIS VASCULAR MEDICINE PROGRAM MESSAGE

The Division of Cardiology at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston is pleased to announce that **Satyendra Giri, M.D., M.P.H.**, will lead its Interventional Cardiology and Vascular Medicine program. Giri said his goal as director is to design a model vascular medicine program and to increase physicians' and patients' awareness of blood vessel disease.



"As a medical community, we need to prepare ourselves to deal with this epidemic of blood vessel disease," Giri said. Often, the leading cause of illness is misrepresented as a heart attack, brain stroke or kidney disease, he said, but in most cases the organ itself is an innocent bystander and the underlying mechanisms that caused the catastrophic symptoms were diseased, narrowed blood vessels.

Dr. Satyendra Giri In addition to Giri's experience as a clinician and teacher, he brings with him the angiographic core laboratory he co-directed at Brigham & Women's Hospital. The lab, which will be named the Vascular Imaging Institute, will provide in-depth blood vessel analysis for national, multi-center clinical trials.

Giri said there are only a handful of angiographic core laboratories in the world, and the laboratory that is being moved to UT-Houston is part of the largest core laboratory and the only one that analyzes the blood vessels which are outside the heart. He plans to continue collaborating with Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. - *M. R. Middleton*

RECOVERY OF MEDICAL SCHOOL AND BOMB THREAT EVACUATION LED TOWN HALL DISCUSSION

The status of the recovery of the Medical School and the Jan. 9 evacuation of all UT-Houston Health Science Center buildings for a bomb threat were the topics of **Dean Max Buja's** Jan. 15 town hall meeting.

Dean Buja reported that **President James T. Willerson** recently wrote to **Gov. Rick Perry**, asking that the \$35 million needed to match the FEMA funds and upgrade the Medical School and John Freeman buildings be declared an emergency funding item in the current legislative session. "If the governor approves, this item will be a higher priority for the Legislature," Dean Buja said.

A sign of progress soon to come will be the creation of a temporary Leather Lounge in the space it formerly occupied on the ground floor. New furniture and plants and improved lighting and flooring will start to take shape over the next few weeks, Dean Buja said. The furniture will be re-used in the new permanent commons spaces of the Medical School. The permanent commons area on the ground floor will be larger than originally planned and will include a monumental staircase that will lead to the basement. (See back page)



Dean Max Buja



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
Medical School

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MED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND BOMB THREAT DISCUSSION, CONTINUED

Dean Buja said he is urging a timeline for completion of the ground floor by the end of 2003 and that the basement be completed by the end of 2004. He indicated the importance of having significant visible progress by the time of the re-accreditation site visit by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education in January 2004.

Other construction timelines include:

- ◆ Mechanical and ventilation units to be replaced by February and the removal of the external generator and yellow tubing in March
- ◆ Ground floor infrastructure to be completed by April
- ◆ Experimental MRI facility on the ground floor to be completed by May 15
- ◆ Basement infrastructure to be completed by September
- ◆ Public spaces and restrooms on ground floor and basement will be given a top priority.

A new three-story vault to house electrical equipment will be built in the front of the Medical School on the Ross Sterling side of the building on columns. One office will have to be sacrificed so that wires can enter the building to provide electricity, and the vault will block all of the windows in that space on floors 1-3.

The drawings for the ground floor and basement are available for viewing on the ground floor near the green elevators.

Dean Buja then opened the floor up to comments about the evacuation of the Medical School buildings, and many audience members expressed concerns about the delay of the notice, evacuating disabled employees, cars traveling on Ross Sterling, and employees standing so close to the buildings.

"Clearly we need to have a much better plan," he said.

UT Police **Chief Charlie Price** said that 99 percent of all bomb threats are false, and that his office is reviewing evacuation plans for all UT buildings.

Kent Cavender, director of Facility Services and Physical Safety, said that his office also is collecting data for improvement and that an internal task force has been created to improve the evacuation process. He said the bomb threat was called in to the Health Science Center's main line at 12:05 p.m., and he received word at 12:11 p.m. He added that the episode on Jan. 9 was the first campus-wide evacuation.

Regarding the sweeping process, Chief Price said that UT Police swept the buildings in partnership with facility and safety employees and reviewed public places for anything suspicious.

When asked about evacuating disabled employees, Cavender said that a list of all disabled employees should be submitted to the Safety Office or UT Police, who keep such a list in case of evacuations.

A specific Medical School meeting about the bomb threat evacuation will be held with coordination by the Health Science Center's Office of Public Affairs. - D. Brown

ACGME REPORT

Following the institutional site visit by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in May 2002, the institution was awarded a "favorable" status, with accreditation for five years (the maximum awarded to institutions).

There were no citations. The site visit covers all aspects of institutional oversight of residency programs, emphasizing educational activities and the support for such activities. The institution was commended for its commitment to graduate medical education with leadership and resources to achieve substantial compliance with the Institutional Requirements. The institution was also commended for its monitoring of programs and for other initiatives including a yearly program directors retreat and the production of a program directors handbook.

Dr. Patricia Butler, associate dean for Educational Programs, said, "This is a significant achievement for the Medical School. It is a testament to the quality of work in the Graduate Medical Education Office, as well as the excellent oversight of the programs by the Graduate Medical Education Committee."



Dr. Patricia Butler

2003 ETHICS IN MEDICINE LECTURE SERIES

Blue Book Credit for Attending 8 of 10 Lectures

Mondays and Wednesdays Time: Noon - 1 p.m. Room: MSB 2.006

- Mon., Feb. 3 **Lovell Allan Jones, Ph.D.**, professor of gynecologic oncology, and director, Center for Research on Minority Health, UT-M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, "Health Disparities in America: Working Toward Social Justice"
- Wed., Feb. 5 **Thomas Murray, Ph.D.**, president and CEO, The Hastings Center, "Cloning, Ethics, and the Meanings of Parenthood"
- Mon., Feb. 10 **Samuel E. Karff, DHL**, adjunct professor of society and health, UT-H School of Public Health, "Therapeutic Choices and the Religious Beliefs of Patients: The Ethical Context"
- Wed., Feb. 12 **John W. Sparks, M.D.**, David R. Park Professor, and chairman, Pediatrics, UT-H Medical School, "Medical Decision Making for Children: Rights of Parents and Minors"
- Wed., Feb. 19 **Eugene Boisauhin, M.D.**, professor of medicine, UT-H Medical School, "Physician Heal Thyself: The Medical and Psychological Hazards of Doctoring"
- Mon., Feb. 24 **Stratton Hill, M.D.**, professor emeritus of medicine, UT-M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, "The Ethics of Pain Management"
- Wed., Feb. 26 **Evelyn C. Chan, M.D., M.S.**, assistant professor, and director of bioethics, Division of General Internal Medicine, UT-H Medical School, "The Ethics of Prevention and the Treatment of HIV, Hepatitis, and Cancer."