



Scoop

March 14, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

- 15 The Injured Brain: Stroke & Trauma**, a free forum, part of Brain Awareness Week, 10:30 a.m. - noon, MSB 3.001.
- 17 Dr. Susan Hamilton**, "Regulation of the skeletal muscle calcium release channel," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.
- St. Pat's Day Popcorn and Bake Sale**, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., MSB Guard's Desk.
- 18 "Aging and the Loss of Significance," Dr. Thomas Cole**, noon, SPH auditorium, part of Healthcare and the Arts Lecture Series.

UTMost Interest

Liliana Rodriguez, MPH, instructor, Family Practice and Community Medicine, and Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, recently returned from Guadalajara, Mexico, where she was an invited microbiology lecturer for second-year medical students at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara...**Dr. Pedro Ruiz**, professor and vice chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, recently was elected vice president of The American Psychiatric Association.

JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

The updated Medical School Facts sheets are now available for ordering through Graphics Communications. Prices are \$44.50 for 25 and \$89 for 50. Call 713-500-5530 for ordering information.



ANXIETY EXPERT DR. DUPONT TO SPEAK AT COMMENCEMENT

Dr. Robert DuPont will be the featured speaker at this year's commencement at 10 a.m. Sat., June 7, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. If you haven't read *The Anxiety Cure: An Eight-Step Program for Getting Well*, written by DuPont and his two daughters, Elizabeth DuPont Spencer, MSW, and Caroline M. DuPont, M.D., you may have seen him on television as a health commentator for ABC's "Good Morning America."



Dr. Robert DuPont

DuPont is president of the Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc. in Rockville, Md. This nonprofit research and policy organization focuses on curbing the use of illegal drugs. His brother, **Dr. Herbert DuPont**, (see back page *Scoop*), is a longtime Medical School faculty member, and his daughter, Caroline, is a 1994 graduate of the Medical School.

Serving under Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter, DuPont directed the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) from its inception in 1973 until July 1978. In addition to directing NIDA, DuPont was appointed by President Nixon in 1973 to direct the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. In that role he became the nation's second White House Drug Czar, serving from 1973-1978 under Presidents Nixon and Ford.

Today Dupont is vice president of Bensinger, DuPont and Associates (BDA), a national management consulting firm dealing with workplace substance abuse, with offices in Chicago, Rockville, Dallas, Little Rock, and Spokane. The firm remains a leader in workplace substance abuse prevention with major programs in policy development, third-party administration of drug testing, and employee assistance.

DuPont has been principal investigator of at least 100 clinical trials and has written more than 200 professional articles and 15 books and monographs on a variety of health-related subjects. A clinical professor of psychiatry at Georgetown University School of Medicine, he has maintained an active psychiatric practice since 1969. He is a graduate of Harvard Medical School and completed his residency and fellowship training at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center and Harvard Medical School. - B. Boutwell

NORRIS APPOINTED TO GREER PROFESSORSHIP

Dr. Steve Norris, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, has been appointed to the Robert Greer Professorship. Norris was chosen from a pool of candidates on the basis of excellence in research and outstanding contributions to graduate education.

He has served on the Academic Standards Committee, the Executive Committee, the Admissions Committee, and the Curriculum Committee of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He also was elected president of the GSBS faculty for 1999-2000 and was Mentor of the Year in 2001. Congratulations!



Dr. Steve Norris



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Manager
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://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/comm/scoop/>
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



HELP LIFT THE HEAVY LOAD!

The average UT-Houston medical student debt is \$98,000.

This year, The Faculty Wives and Women Faculty Doris Simon Student Fund continues to help lift the heavy debt load of our medical students, and they are looking for contributions.

Your contribution, whatever you can give, is very much needed and appreciated.

A special gift of a mini CD version of the cookbook "Something's Cooking" will be sent to those contributing \$100 or more.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to: Development Office, P.O. Box 20036, Houston, Texas 77225.



DR. HERBERT DUPONT'S NOTES ON BIOTERRORISM

Excerpted from "Antidote to fears of a bioterror attack here," which appeared in the *Houston Chronicle* (Sun., March 9, p.1C), by **Dr. Herbert L. DuPont**, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases: "To date, more than \$1 billion has been provided to our state and local health departments and hospitals to organize plans to deal with potential health threats brought on by terrorism.

"A huge budget is being made available to academic institutions to develop new and novel approaches to bioterrorism prevention detection and therapy. Daily we are getting better prepared.

"Survival kits that go beyond what is recommended for a problem such as a natural disaster are of limited value for defense against a totally random and unpredictable event.

"Remember this: It is not easy to deliver biologic and chemical weapons into the general public."

Dupont also serves on **Mayor Lee Brown's** Medical Advisory Steering Committee of Houston's Medical Strike Team for Biological and Chemical Terrorism.

He can be reached at <hdupont@sluh.com>.

FREE LAMINATION SERVICE FOR IMPORTANT EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Environmental Health & Safety is providing a free lamination service of emergency contact information for UT employees.

Those who want to carry on their person a small laminated emergency contact card, listing both Health Science Center emergency information and personal emergency information, can contact **Abby Mitchell**, at <Abby.Mitchell@uth.tmc.edu> to obtain a form.

Dr. Robert Emery's Powerpoint slide presentation, "Preparing for Terrorist Attacks at Work and Home," also is available. To receive a copy, contact **Colleen O'Brien**, at <Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu>.

HOW TO BECOME A 'NATURAL STEP' CAMPUS

How does our campus become a cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally friendly one? The Natural Step, which uses scientific principles in easy to understand language, has been taught to over 900 faculty, staff, students, and community representatives. The Health Science Center has received a \$20,000 grant from the Shell Research Foundation to teach "The Natural Step." The next free seminar is 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., **March 26 or 27**, at UCT, 7000 Fannin (at Galen), Suite 1505c. Continental breakfast is 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Parking costs must be covered by the participant. To register online, go to <www.uth.tmc.edu/sustainability/tnsregister.htm>. Or call 713-500-3415 or 3425. For more information about sustainability, see <www.uth.tmc.edu/sustainability>.

HAVE YOU FILLED OUT YOUR SURVEY?

Just a reminder. **Liliana Rodriguez**, director of Special Projects, Community and Educational Outreach, is conducting a campus-wide survey of community outreach and service activities. To fill out the survey, click on the active link at <http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/uth_orgs/ie/cosasurvey.html>.



(l. to r.), **Dr. Henry Strobel**, **Diane Guiberteau**, from **The Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation**, **Auinash Kalsotra**, and **Dr. George Stancel**.

GSBS STUDENT AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to **Auinash Kalsotra**, GSBS, who received a total of a \$20,000 stipend in support this year, for his research project studies.

The title of Kalsotra's most recent research endeavor is "Degradation of LT_{B4} by Cytochrome P450s in Atherosclerosis: A New Approach for an Old Disease." It is hoped that the findings will help us to recognize the underlying mechanism of disease progression and thereby make possible the designing of novel therapeutic strategies against atherosclerosis, the researcher said.

The Harry S. & Isabel C. Cameron Foundation Fellowship provides \$10,000 to an exceptional GSBS student working in research fields related to Alzheimer's or cardiovascular disease. This \$10,000 gift was matched by the GSBS. **Dr. Henry Strobel**, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, is Kalsotra's adviser.

Voice-Recognition System Now Available

FORGOT THE PHONE NUMBER?

NO PROBLEM

Your friend, colleague, or doctor is just a phone call away. The new voice-recognition system is now available for use by all UT-Houston faculty, staff and students, as well as patients, colleagues, and friends.

The outside phone number to call is **713-500-4HSC (4472)**, or from within the UT campus, **extension 9222**.

Calls are answered with a greeting that prompts callers to speak the *name* of the person or department they wish to reach.