



Scoop

March 7, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

8 Caring is the Essence/Basics of Palliative Care, Part II, 7:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m., contact Sheila Jones, 713-790-3647.

11 Town Hall Meeting: Preparing for terrorist attacks at work and home: noon - 1 p.m., Robert Emery, Dr.P.H., Environmental Health & Safety, MSB 3.001.

20 Grant Taylor Lecturer, Dr. Karen Davis, president, Commonwealth Fund, "Creating Consensus on Coverage and Choices: Roles for Academic Institutions," noon, Commons Bldg., 6th floor conference room. Call 713-798-8256.

MATCH DAY.

For more Events to Know, see e-scoop via Hot Spots at <www.med.uth.tmc.edu>.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Barry D. Kahan, director, Division of Immunology and Organ Transplantation, received the Gold Medal of the The Catalan Society of Transplantation for the development of cyclosporine and rapamycin. Kahan is the fourth scientist outside of Spain to be honored during the Society's 15 years... **Austin Stack**, assistant professor, Internal Medicine, Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension, was awarded a \$2,500 honorarium, the 2003 Sandra Daugherty Award for Excellence in Cardiovascular and Disease and Hypertension Epidemiology, by the Council on Epidemiology and Prevention of the American Heart Association.

GIVE BLOOD - SAVE A LIFE

The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center now has a blood center at Memorial Hermann Hospital's Robertson Building, 1st Floor, near the Shock Trauma Waiting Room and Garage 4. Hours of operation: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Mondays and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fridays.

WILLERSON HOSTS "CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT"



Dr. James T. Willerson

In the first of a series of quarterly meetings, UT-Houston President **James T. Willerson, M.D.**, hosted a "Conversation with the President" at the Medical School March 3.

Willerson covered a variety of topics, reiterating the key accomplishments of UT-Houston over the past 23 months, including the status of the Institute of Molecular Medicine building, the School of Nursing Building, the new Mental Sciences Institute, and milestones in collection rates for clinical fees and fund-raising.

He also talked about the challenge of reduced state spending across the campus. "I want to reduce administrative costs of my office by \$2 million, which will require extensive reorganization," Willerson said. "I have asked every dean to reduce administrative costs."

SMALLING LEADS AGGRESSIVE CARE FOR HEART ATTACK STUDY

About 500,000 Americans die each year from acute heart attacks, or sudden blockages of coronary arteries known as acute myocardial infarctions.

A Houston-led pilot study in Texas and Florida will test a new standard of aggressive care for heart attack patients. The 18-month study is planned to launch **March 17**, and is expected to lead to a large-scale clinical trial involving 20 institutions nationally.

"Our objective through this study is to define the optimal mode of treatment of acute heart attack patients," said principal investigator **Richard Smalling, M.D., Ph.D.**, chair, Division of Cardiology, and director of the cardiac catheterization lab at Memorial Hermann Hospital. Smalling and colleagues believe a coordinated, aggressive strategy for treating heart attack patients, which combines the advantage of early administration of a clot-buster with transportation to specially designated Level I Cardiovascular Centers for immediate angiography and stenting of the heart attack artery, will lower the six-month mortality to 2 to 4 percent.

"If this strategy proves to be successful and were to be implemented across the country, it has the potential to save approximately 500 lives per day in the United States alone, which is the equivalent of preventing two jumbo jet crashes per day in the U.S.," Smalling said. - *S. Merville*

19TH ANNUAL BP MS 150 BIKE TOUR A TEXAS TRADITION

Over hill and over dale, at least 34 Medical School students and employees will hit the dusty trails on **April 12** and **13**, as they make a 150-mile bike trip to Austin to raise funds for multiple sclerosis (MS) research. The MS 150 organization is expecting 10,000 riders this year on the Houston to Austin trip - the largest in the country. The Medical School's teams' registrations, jerseys, facilities in LaGrange, meals, and transportation from Austin to Houston after the ride has been underwritten by Auxiliary Enterprises. **Leslie Holland**, Planning Office, designed this year's jersey. Openings are still available on the team. If interested, contact team captain **Dawna Jarvis**, 713-500-3382, or **Corey Jefferson** at 713-500-8427. Visit the Web site at <www.ms150.org/ms150>.



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



student association profile

LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

It's the Year of the Ram. And, according to Chinese New Year tradition, 2003 favors elegant and highly accomplished activities and people passionate about what they do, with traits such as wisdom, gentleness, and compassion, inevitably leading to success and monetary accomplishments.



Second-year medical students **Jacqueline Chen**, president, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA), and **Jenny Vu**, vice president, and other members of the APAMSA, hosted a Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 4 in the Fifth Floor Gallery.

The event included oriental cuisine, specialty teas from Teahouse Tapioca and Tea on Westheimer and Shepherd, and a fashion show, to raise funds for a future community outreach health clinic in a critical Houston neighborhood. Among the costumes worn during the fashion show was a Vietnamese traditional dress for females. It is worn at all special occasions, such as weddings and lunar new years.



Jacqueline Chen

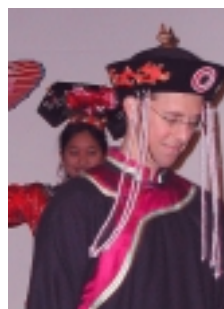
"Through these types of activities, we hope to educate participants about the Asian community and to celebrate our culture," Chen said. - story and photos by C. O'Brien



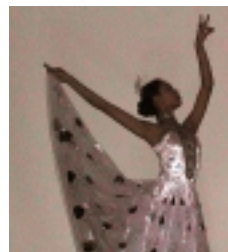
Jed Cheng



Martha Suarez



Todd Alonso



Jennifer Yang



Jenny Vu

Adieu, adieu!

Friends and family attended a farewell party, Feb. 18 in the Fifth Floor Gallery, for **Dr. Barbara Sanborn**, professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.



Dr. Barbara Sanborn and her spouse, Hugh.

Dr. Sanborn, a hormonal signal transduction scientist, is officially retiring from the Medical School, but will retain an adjunct appointment. She will assume the role of chairperson and director, Department of Biomedical Sciences, within the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, at Colorado State University.

Bonne chance!

CLIFTON FACILITATES PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Guy Clifton, chairman, Neurosurgery, was a key supporter of the agreement recently reached between TIRR and Memorial Hermann Hospital for care of patients without rehabilitation resources.

"Dr. Clifton came to us last summer and hosted a meeting with both TIRR and Memorial Hermann," said **Charles Beall**, acting president of TIRR. "He helped us focus on the community-wide problem and the effect it was having on both institutions and encouraged us to be creative in solving this challenge. We are grateful for his leadership and the outstanding cooperation we had from the entire Memorial Hermann team to make this agreement a reality."

A partnership to provide care for patients without resources was formalized on Jan. 29, in a letter of agreement between the two facilities. The agreement was signed by Beall, and **Juanita Romans**, senior vice president, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, and chief executive officer, Memorial Hermann Hospital.

UNCF, PFIZER OFFER FELLOWSHIPS

The United Negro College Fund and Pfizer, Inc. will award at least four postdoctoral fellowships, each providing up to \$53,500, to support the career development of under-represented minority postgraduates in the biomedical research fields. Applications are due **April 15**. Visit the Web site at <www.uncf.org> or stop by JLL Suite 400, for information.