



Scoop

May 23, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

May

27 "Acupuncture, Free Talks and Roast Duck Fajitas" -- Brown-bag lunch talk by students returning from China elective. Noon, MSB 2.135.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Evelyn Chan's, Internal Medicine, article on male prostate research, published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, was picked up by Reuters Health International.

NOTE - Dr. James Willerson is introduced on the floor of the House in Austin April 29 by Rep. Martha Wong (Houston). Willerson



Dr. Willerson in Austin.

was at the Capitol to visit representatives and support the UT-Houston Health Fair at the State Capitol, held in the Rotunda. Several hundred people stopped by to learn about UT-Houston and participate in screenings for blood pressure, strokes, oral health, and glucose. Dr. Joe Bedford, Family Practice, and members of the UT-Houston Stroke Team offered screenings and represented the Medical School. The Dental Branch brought its Mobile Clinic.

- S. Rasp

NANO SUMMIT COMING UP

The all-day 2003 Nano Summit **July 31** at the Hornberger Conference Center will provide a forum for medical, natural science, and engineering researchers and students in Texas to meet each other and exchange information on areas of expertise. Click on <www.nanotechfoundation.org/events/ticket.php4> to register. The advanced registration conference cost is \$10 but is refunded at the conference. **Dr. Rick Smalley**, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, is the kickoff speaker. If you would like to submit a poster, contact <poster@nanotechfoundation.org>.

DR. SHURE TO DIRECT PULMONARY VASCULAR DISEASE PROGRAM

Throughout her career, **Dr. Deborah Shure**, who was recently appointed Professor of Internal Medicine and director of the Program for Pulmonary Vascular Diseases in the Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine/Internal Medicine, has had interests in the clinical and research aspects of pulmonary vascular disease and their broad implications for diseases such as scleroderma. She has developed an excellent national and international reputation as an educator and academic clinician and has received many prominent awards and positions, including president, American College of Chest Physicians, and has been listed in "The Best Doctors in America" on numerous occasions.



Dr. Deborah Shure

"She has already spoken at our grand rounds, and I'm honored that she's chosen to be a part of our program," said **Dr. Akhil Bidani**, division director. "It is a privilege to have someone of her extensive knowledge and wisdom to help make this program better.

"We are interested in her as a senior faculty member who can help expand and strengthen our clinical and research programs in pulmonary medicine. We are particularly interested in her leadership skills; we believe she can develop a strong multi-disciplinary program in pulmonary vascular disease at UT-Houston. We believe she is poised to develop a broad-based program, encompassing immunology and inflammation, genetics, physiology and pathology, and outcome assessment at UT-Houston," he added.

Shure is looking for a comprehensive approach to pulmonary vascular disease and is also active in tobacco-related illnesses. "Women are much more likely to get lung cancer from smoking," she said. Before joining UT, Shure was director, Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, the University of Mississippi.

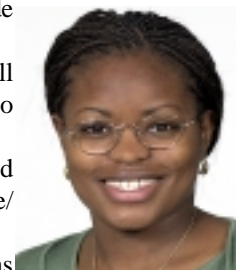
APRIL ALFORD WINS 2 GRANTS, SUMMER INSTITUTE SOJOURN

April Alford, MS I, has earned two fellowships, the John A. Harford/American Federation on Aging Research Fellowship, a \$4,000 grant, and The Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Fellowship, a \$3,000 grant. Additionally, Alford was one of 20 students chosen nationwide for a special summer institute in Boston.

"During the Summer Institute on Geriatrics, we assess what our role will be taking care of the aging population," she said. "We will be challenged to come up with innovative ideas."

Alford studies atherosclerotic plaque formation in the ascending and descending aorta. She works with **Dr. Yong-Jian Geng**, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, and **Dr. George Taffet**, at Baylor.

"We will be using a mouse model to determine the role of the Fas/Fas Ligand receptor in vascular smooth muscle cell apoptosis, and we will measure vessel wall distensibility," she explained. "I am very thankful that I received these awards, and I'm looking forward to getting started on my research project."



April Alford



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



*Celebrating Teaching Excellence***THE HERBERT L. AND MARGARET W. DUPONT MASTER CLINICAL TEACHING AWARD****Dr. Ian Butler**

Dr. Ian Butler is the third recipient of the DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award. Butler is professor and vice chairman, Neurology; director, Division of Child Neurology; and holds the Adriana Blood chair. His clinical interests are pediatric neuromuscular disorders and movement disorders. His research interests are biochemical, pharmacological, and developmental aspects of neurotransmitters in the central nervous system and disorders of bipterin metabolism. During the past decade, he has expanded his research and clinical efforts in cognitive and developmental child neurology.

The DuPonts created the endowed award to “recognize the best among our clinical teachers and to reinforce how important they are to the Medical School.” Herbert DuPont first joined UT-Houston Medical School in 1973 and is recognized as an international authority on infectious diseases. DuPont is the Mary Kelsey Professor in the Medical Sciences as well as the chief of Internal Medicine Services at St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital. **Drs. Frank Arnett and Patrick Brosnan** are past recipients.

Dr. Butler is most proud of a teaching tradition in the Department of Neurology that he has encouraged for more than two decades — the Pediatric Neurology Conference — each Friday, 8 a.m. sharp, in Room 7.037.

“I’m a hands-on kind of teacher. I teach as part of my daily routine, interacting with the students and residents in clinic on a daily basis and advising them on their case presentations for the Friday conferences,” he said.

“I enjoy what I do. Twice a month, the students, residents, and myself pile into my car and travel out to the FM 1960 outpatient clinic. We have a chance to catch up, exchange information; I get to hear what’s going on with the students and their concerns. It’s a bonding experience.”

- C. O’Brien

DOCTORS ORCHESTRA OF HOUSTON FEATURES “MUSIC AND PICTURES”

Doctors Orchestra of Houston will present its “Music and Pictures” concert 7 p.m. **May 31** and 2 p.m. **June 1** at Zilkha Hall in the new Hobby Center.

“All of the pieces have something to do with a painting that inspired the composers to write the music,” explained director **Libi Lebel**.

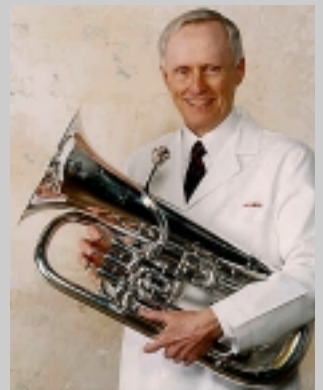
The paintings will be shown on a big screen during the orchestra’s pieces, which include **Paul Hindemith’s** “Angel Concert,” **Ottorino Respighi’s** “Birth of Venus” and “Spring,” **Herbert L. Clarke’s** “Carnival of Venice,” and **Modest Mussorgsky’s** “Pictures in Exhibition.” Other artwork, including that from local artists and from patients at Texas Children’s Hospital, will be on display at the concert.

Texas Heart Institute surgeon **Grady Hallman, M.D.**, will be the featured euphonium soloist on “Carnival of Venice.”

“Dr. Hallman is a trombone player in our orchestra and he is a true virtuoso on the euphonium, a tenor tuba instrument. He is absolutely amazing. I have rarely heard someone play so well on the euphonium with such a technique,” Lebel said.

Hallman has been very supportive of Doctors Orchestra and other musical groups. He plays euphonium in the Gulf Coast Concert Band, trombone in the Houston Concert Band, and is a member of a brass quintet and a trombone quartet. Hallman is a clinical professor of cardiothoracic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston. He performed the first successful coronary graft operation in 1962.

With this concert, Doctors Orchestra is celebrating its corporate sponsorship by Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), which gave \$100,000 to sponsor the orchestra over three years. Charles Schwab gave the group \$10,000 for its last concert, becoming the orchestra’s first corporate underwriter.

**Dr. Grady Hallman**

“With this generous support, we can now finally achieve our goal of raising money for medical research and charities,” Lebel said.

Proceeds from the “Music and Pictures” concerts will go toward the Texas Children’s Hospital’s Making a Mark Art Program and the DeBakey High School for Health Professions. Doctors Orchestra of Houston made its first donation from proceeds from its last concert to the Baylor Charity Ball and The University of Texas Medical School at Houston May 2.

“This check isn’t a big check, but it’s the first step,” Lebel said of the donation to UT-Houston.

Tickets for the upcoming concerts are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and children. They may be purchased at Cactus Records, 713-526-9272, or at Joel’s Classical Shop, 713-665-0954.

For more information, or to buy tickets online, see www.doctorsorchestrahouston.org.

- D. Brown