



# Scoop

Sept. 12, 2003

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### September

**17 Employee Appreciation Day**, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Webber Plaza, MSB employees only. UT ID badge required. Food, DJ, Give-aways. Sponsored by the Employee Relations Committee.

## ATTENTION ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA MEMBERS

New members are to be elected at the Fall General Membership meeting of Alpha Omega Alpha (Delta of Texas) 5:30 p.m., Mon., **Sept. 29**, MSB 2.006. If you would like to nominate a resident or a UT-Houston alumnus/a for membership, send the name and reason for the nomination to the councilor, **Eugene Boisaubin, M.D.**, Internal Medicine, 1.122 MSB <Eugene.Boisaubin@uth.tmc.edu>, by Fri., **Sept. 26**. If you are not sure whether your candidate is already a member, contact **Pat Caver**, <Patricia.E.Caver@uth.tmc.edu>, in Student Affairs, 713-500-5170.

## UCSC TO SPONSOR SILENT AUCTION AT FUN FEST

Attention faculty, staff, and administration. Donations requested. If you have an item to donate, a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, or a monetary donation, consider donating to the University Classified Staff Council Silent Auction.

In the past four years, the UCSC has been able to award up to seven scholarships through this program as funding has allowed. The auction, which raises scholarship funds to be awarded to children of classified employees, will be at the Fun Fest on **Oct. 10**. For questions or to submit information about your donation, call 713-500-5121.

## GRAPHICS ON THE MOVE

Graphics has moved to the ground floor of the Freeman Building in what used to be Student Health, JFB Room 703, near the Bookstore. They also have a small photo studio in Room G.721.

## PEDIATRIC CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEON TO START PROGRAM

Congenital heart disease affects nearly 1 percent of all newborns. It's been estimated that 35,000 - 40,000 children will be born in this country with heart defects; a large portion of these children will require surgical intervention. **Dr. Bradley Allen**, professor, Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery, is a new face here at the Medical School and is gearing up a pediatric cardiothoracic surgery program at Memorial Hermann Hospital, to be operational by the end of October.



**Dr. Bradley Allen and Jaelyn Smith**

"I hope to do at least 150 - 200 surgeries in the first year and more than 300 by the end of the third year. I anticipate that our program will be among the top centers in the country," Allen said.

He most recently served as an attending surgeon in the Department of Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at The Heart Institute for Children, Hope Children's Hospital, in Oak Lawn, Ill. He has authored more than 70 papers and six book chapters and has been an invited speaker both nationally and internationally. He is collaborating on a \$1 million four-year NIH grant, "Controlled

Reperfusion for Whole Body Ischemic Injury."

"I've spent 20 years investigating how to protect the heart and in particular, the child's heart. I've investigated ischemia/reperfusion and hypoxia/reoxygenation, that is, what happens when you give back normal amounts of oxygen to blue babies. The good news is we are finding better ways to protect babies' bodies and hearts," he said.

Allen also happens to be the husband of **Jaelyn Smith**, the movie actress and original Charlie's Angel, who made a cameo appearance in the recent version of Charlie's Angels. Allen met his wife he said, while on a surgical team operating on her father at UCLA. - C. O'Brien

## 101 GUIDE TO THE UCRC OCT. 2

University Clinical Research Center (UCRC) Program Director **Dr. Pablo C. Okhuysen, M.D.**, will host an orientation session, "101 Guide to the UCRC," noon - 1 p.m., Thurs. **Oct. 2**, MSB 3.001. A free lunch will be provided to the first 50 people who arrive. A brief description of the application process and requirements will be included, as well as explanation of the expertise available from the UCRC nursing staff, Informatics Core, biostatistician, dietician, and Genetics Core Lab.

The UCRC is located in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Robertson Pavilion at Memorial Hermann Hospital. The UCRC is funded through an NIH grant and provides comprehensive support services at no charge to investigator-initiated studies regardless of funding. The center also provides support to industry-sponsored studies at reasonable rates. For more information about the presentation or about the UCRC in general, call 713-704-4137 or 4269 or visit the Web site at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/uth\_orgs/crc/>.



**Dr. Pablo Okhuysen**



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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### Hard Hat Update

## A NEW LOOK, A NEW PLACE FOR THE LRC

The new Learning Resource Center, which is in final design stages, will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment for The University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

**Tony Lentola**, senior project manager for the new Learning Resource Center to be located north of Ross Sterling Avenue, within the former MSB cafeteria space, said "A state-of-the-art facility is what the medical students will have in the new Learning Resource Center." The proposed facility will have just over 10,000 sq. ft. There will be approximately 150 study carrels providing individual access to an estimated 75 desktop and laptop computers, 12 carousel slide viewers and 13 VHS video players. All the carrels will be equipped with a data port for connection to the Internet. Both a wireless and wired network environment is envisioned for the new LRC.

Within the space, architectural renderings call for six Problem Based Learning rooms and five Group Study rooms. Total seating capacity in the LRC will be 200. The facility will be accessible 24/7. The construction schedule has been impacted recently due in large part to finalizing design issues, but the project should be completed around the end of February 2004. Feel free to call Lentola at 713-500-4740, or **Karim Marani**, the LRC director, 713-500-5146, if you require further information.

## NINTH YEAR FOR RESEARCH DAY NOV. 14

The organizers of 2003 Research Day: The Graduate and Postgraduate Research Forum expect contributions from more than 200 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston scientists, according to **Peter Davies, M.D., Ph.D.**, executive vice president for research. This is the ninth year of the forum, which will feature projects with students and postgraduate trainees as first authors.

"The new emphasis grew out of input from focus groups following last year's event," Davies said. "Our faculty felt the students and fellows are creative and productive, and the forum will recognize their research interests and achievements."

The forum will be held 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., **Fri., Nov. 14**, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center in the Texas Medical Center, 2151 W. Holcombe. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend.

Students and postgraduate trainees must register and submit abstracts online by **Wed., Oct. 15**, at <http://research.uth.tmc.edu/researchforum>.

Students and postgraduate trainees are eligible to submit abstracts as first authors. Other researchers may participate as additional authors. Platform presentations of 12 selected abstracts begin at 9 a.m., and an extensive poster presentation program is at 1 p.m. Faculty judges will review the presentations and present awards to eight first authors for Biomedical Excellence Awards. The awards consist of three \$300 prizes for student posters, three \$300 prizes for postgraduate trainee posters, one \$500 prize for best student platform presentation, and one \$500 prize for best postgraduate trainee platform presentation.

Research Day is coordinated by the Office of Research Services. Questions can be directed to **Karen Mitchell**, Director of Research Services, 713-500-3081 or by e-mail to [research@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:research@uth.tmc.edu).

## HOUSTON ISD TEACHERS RETURN TO SCHOOL FROM SUMMER VACATION WITH GERMS

University faculty members, including **Pablo C. Okhuysen, M.D., Ben J. Barnett, M.D., Luis Ostrosky-Zeichner, M.D., Cynthia DeBord, Ph.D., Lilliana Rodríguez, M.P.H., and Karen Storthz, Ph.D.**, serving as microbiology mentors and resource people, were paired this summer with 15 middle school and high school teachers. The latter are recent graduates of the Microbial Discovery Institute, a workshop sponsored by the Health Science Center, the American Society for Microbiology, HISD Houston Urban Learning Initiatives in a Networked Community, and the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science.

The event was aimed at encouraging teachers to incorporate microbiology into the basic science curriculum by reviewing basic microbiology content, providing practical inquiry-based activities, stimulating interest in science and the microbial world, presenting new advances in the field, and providing support and resources for the development of new exercises.

**Rodríguez** served as the site coordinator.

A unique feature of this initiative is that the graduates will receive invitations to Health Science Center events throughout the year, such as Research Day and Teaching and Learning Day. Additionally, each teacher received a set of scientific videos and microbiology supplies for classroom use. Due to the success of the workshop, the Health Science Center has been named a regional site for the Microbial Discovery Institute. Future workshop plans include inviting more school districts to participate. - *L. Rodríguez, S. Morrison*



**Corazon Kapunan, Welch Middle School teacher, scoops up a microbial sample at Hermann Park.**

## REVELLE AWARDED 2003 PFIZER VISITING PROFESSORSHIP/RHEUMATOLOGY

**Dr. John Reville**, Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology & Immunogenetics, is at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, as a 2003 Pfizer Visiting Professor/Rheumatology. The Pfizer visiting professorship program is designed to



bring clinical and educational benefits to U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals. (L. to R.), **Ngu Humphrey A. Morcho**, institutional health-care representative, Pfizer Inc.; **John D. Reville, M.D.**, professor and director, Division of Rheumatology; **Kathy Rogers**, senior institutional healthcare representative, Pfizer Inc.; **Travis Bonisac**, institutional health-care representative, Pfizer Inc.