



Scoop

Aug. 20, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

September

15 Employee Appreciation Day, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Webber Plaza.

October

4 Dean's Town Hall Meeting, noon - 1 p.m., MSB 3.001.

8 Founder's Fun Fest, 2-6 p.m., TMC Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Albert Gunn celebrated 25 years as associate dean for admissions and as chair of the Admissions Committee for the Medical School June 1. Gunn is currently the longest-serving admissions dean of any of the medical schools in Texas, and he reports he has writer's cramp from signing about 5,000 acceptance letters.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!

Who doesn't need to keep fit? The nice thing is we have our own Medical School Fitness Center right here on the 8th floor penthouse to help us do just that. Members also can work out at the Recreation Center, 7779 Knight Rd.

The Fitness Center was scheduled to close this past May. We have a reprieve. If 300 members join the Fitness Center by **Aug. 31** - 11 days away - the Dean's Office will defray one-third of the membership dues for FY 05. We have 120 members and need 180 more!

It's up to us to keep this facility open! Annual membership is \$25 month for 8 months and 4 months free through automatic payroll deduction. Or faculty and employees can pay \$200 in advance at the Fitness Center front desk if they do not wish to use the payroll deduct option.

For more information, stop by the Fitness Center, located on the School's 8th floor penthouse, or call 713-500-5044.

OPHTHALMOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO BE NAMED FOR RUIZ

The UT System Board of Regents approved changing the name of the Medical School's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science to the "**Richard S. Ruiz, M.D., Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science**" at its most recent board meeting, Aug. 12 in Houston.



Dean Schultz (l.) congratulates Dr. Ruiz. "I am pleased that the Board of Regents has given its approval to honor Dr. Ruiz in this way," said **Dean Stanley Schultz**. "Dr. Ruiz has done so much for the Medical School, and this is a way that the Medical School can show its gratitude."

The new department name honors Ruiz, who has been the only chair of the department since the School opened in 1970. He holds the John S. Dunn Distinguished University Chair in Ophthalmology and serves as chief of ophthalmology at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

In 1968, Ruiz established the Hermann Eye Fund, a nonprofit, tax-exempt foundation to help underwrite indigent patient care, teaching, research, and public service. Under Ruiz's leadership as president of the Hermann Eye Fund, contributions have grown to more than \$15 million. Through the efforts of the Eye Fund Board of Directors, Ruiz has created more than 20 endowed positions totaling approximately \$10 million within his department.

The department's name change is effective upon the retirement of Ruiz from the UT Health Science Center.

"This is a great honor, and I am very humbled. And, I want to let everyone know that the name change won't happen anytime soon because I have no immediate plans to retire," Ruiz said.

NEW GROSS ANATOMY LAB OPENS FOR CLASSES

It has been three years since Tropical Storm Allison devastated the Medical School, destroying the gross anatomy lab in the process. Since that time, first-year students have been bussed off campus to a temporary lab behind AstroWorld at Operations Center Building (OCB). That inconvenience ends this week as the incoming class will take the required first-year course in a new facility in the basement.

The new lab was built in a flood-protected area of the basement and features new observation lighting at each tank, a public address system, X-ray view boxes, and data drops from the ceiling for laptop computers. The Medical School will provide 10 laptops at the tanks, and students may bring their own computers to access online dissecting manuals, electronic atlas materials, and radiology materials on the Web.

(Cont'd. on back)



Dr. Han Zhang prepares for his lectures in the new gross anatomy lab.



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of TEXAS

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A part of The University of Texas
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WELCOME STUDENTS!



Tanner Baker, MS I, gets assistance with his white coat.

Scenes to the left and below are from the White Coat Ceremony ushering in more than 200 first-year medical students Aug. 11, and a student orientation held in the Leather Lounge, also Aug. 11, with representatives from the various student organizations as well as from vendors.

The White Coat Ceremony is an annual event that welcomes the new first-year Medical School students. **Dean Stanley Schultz**, who will teach the students physiology in their first year, was the keynote speaker, saying "I implore you as you progress in your careers, don't ever treat your patients like case numbers. Always remember you are dealing with people. Aspire to be their healer."

To order White Coat Ceremony tapes or DVDs, \$15 each, payable by check made out to UTHSC, send to: **Jamie Munsinger**, Student Affairs, 6431 Fannin, MSB 5.202, Houston, TX 77030.



Paul Critelli, MS I, and Mia Cox, MS I, sign their oaths.



The incoming Medical School class gathers information during orientation in the Leather Lounge.



Deborah Aguilar (1.), MS I, shares a moment with Mariam Abdullatif, MS I.

NEW GROSS ANATOMY LAB BECKONS INCOMING STUDENTS, CONT'D.

"In the future, we hope to design computer exercises to go along with the lab dissections to bring another dimension to the lab experience," said **Len Cleary, Ph.D.**, director of the gross anatomy course. "We use a system of peer teaching in the lab, and the peer teachers will use the laptops in presentations to their fellow students."

The nearby morgue facility is improved with a walk-in freezer and cooler system. "The freezer is an important benefit for the continuing education program and research because some investigators use unembalmed cadavers, and we had a limited capacity for those activities before," Cleary said.

- D. Brown

D.C. DISTRICT COURT DISMISSES MATCH LAWSUIT

On Aug. 12, U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman granted motions to dismiss the lawsuit, Paul Jung, M.D., *et al.* vs. Association of American Medical Colleges, *et al.*, due to congressional passage of a statute that exempts the National Resident Matching Program from anti-trust laws. The motions were submitted by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and 28 institutional and organizational defendants.

The AAMC stated "This is a great victory for everyone in the medical education community. The AAMC wholeheartedly applauds the District Court for dismissing this costly and destructive litigation, which has diverted the nation's teaching hospitals from their important missions of patient care, physician training, and medical research."

For information go to <<http://www.aamc.org/newsroom/jungcomplaint/start.htm>>. (Source: AAMC STAT, Aug. 16, 2004)

FALL CLASS IN STEM CELL TECHNOLOGY OFFERED

Would you like to know more about stem cells and their usefulness in biomedicine? Then, this is the time to sign up and find out more. Fall classes will be conducted every Wednesday. The first class will be 11 a.m. - noon, Wed., **Aug. 25**, MSB 6.018 (green section).

Registration is ongoing until **Aug. 27**. Late registration is **Aug. 28-Sept. 3**. The semester ends **Dec. 17**. This class is open to all active UT Health Science Center students; call the registrar's office, 713-500-3361. Or students can check the registrar's Web site, <http://registrar.uth.tmc.edu/Services/Student_Forms.html>.

Any employee who wants to take the course can contact the registrar's office, 713-500-3361, or check the Web site at <https://secureweb.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/cardiff/teleform/eforms/gsbs_emp_enroll.pdf>.

A stem cell is a cell from the embryo, fetus or adult that has, under certain conditions, the ability to reproduce itself for longer periods, or in the case of adult stem cells, throughout the lifespan of the organism. In this one-hour credit class students, interested faculty and staff will improve their basic knowledge about adult and embryonic stem cells. The class will also review the latest, cutting-edge science of how and when stem cells can and will be used in biomedicine.

For more course information, check the Web site at <<http://gsbs.gs.uth.tmc.edu/courses/g040031.html>> or call 713-500-9871.

VAUGHN CONSTRUCTION TO MANAGE NEW REPLACEMENT RESEARCH FACILITY

A UT selection committee has named Vaughn Construction as the construction manager for the new Replacement Research Facility now being designed by Watkins Hamilton Ross, Architects. The John Freeman Building is expected to be vacated in November to allow the start of abatement and demolition of the existing two-story building. Construction of foundations and the new structure will start in the spring of 2005.