



# Scoop

Dec. 10, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### December

- 10 Dean's Cookie & Punch Holiday Reception**, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Leather Lounge. Also tour the Medical School's newly relocated offices.
- 17 Dr. Bob Tuttle Tribute**, 2:30 p.m., MBS 2.103. Join Dean Stanley Schultz and others as they share remembrances of the second dean of the Medical School. Reception to follow in the Leather Lounge.
- 17 Sixth Hans J. Müller-Eberhard Memorial Lecture**, Dr. K. Frank Austen, "Integrated Biology of the Cysteinyl Leukotrienes," 11 a.m., Institute for Biosciences and Technology (IBT), 2121 W. Holcombe, second floor auditorium. Reception to follow.
- 17 Are you stressed by holiday decisions?** Get a chair massage, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$10 for 15 minutes, MSB 7.037. Contact <totallyyou@sbcglobal.net> or 832-754-8695. Sponsored by the Medical School's Employee Relations Committee.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. James Wheless**, Neurology, co-led the discussion "Neurostimulation 2004: A Safety Update" Dec. 4 at the annual American Epilepsy Society meeting in New Orleans.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Roy Varner**, former medical director, Harris County Psychiatric Center, died Tues., Dec. 7, after a long struggle with cancer. He was 65. "Roy Varner was an exemplary individual," said **Dr. Robert Guynn**, chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and executive director, UT Harris County Psychiatric Center.



Dr. Roy Varner

An announcement on services is forthcoming.

## DR. BARBARA FOORMAN ASSUMES NEW COMMISSIONER ROLE

Professor of pediatrics and director of the Center for Academic and Reading Skills (CARS), **Barbara Foorman, Ph.D.**, is packing her bags. "The job starts Mon., Jan. 10 and I'm leaving Houston for Washington, D.C. on Wed., Jan. 5," she said.



Dr. Barbara Foorman

A University of Texas reading-skills expert, Foorman was chosen to be the first commissioner for education research at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). "We searched long and hard to get just the right person in this position," said **Grover "Russ" Whitehurst**, IES director.

"I'm delighted to have been selected as the first ever to serve in this capacity," Foorman said. "As commissioner, I will work to support research aimed at improving education at all levels by providing grants that expand the fundamental knowledge and understanding of education from early childhood through post-secondary study."

Foorman, an internationally recognized scholar in the areas of reading and language development, will be in charge of a \$185 million budget. The appointment is for six years, although Foorman expects to return by the end of the year. **Dr. Jack Fletcher** will temporarily assume her duties *in absentia*.

## ORLANDER, MURRAY, AND FINKEL NAMED VICE CHAIRS

**Dr. Bruce Kone**, the James T. and Nancy B. Willerson Chair, professor and chairman, Department of Internal Medicine, has named three new vice chairs in his department.

**Dr. Philip Orlander**, professor of internal medicine, will serve as vice chair for education. Orlander also serves as director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism and was the recent recipient of the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award.

**Dr. Barbara Murray**, professor of internal medicine and director of the Division of Infectious Diseases, will serve as vice chair for research. Murray is an internationally known physician-scientist who has been elected to membership in the prestigious Association of American Physicians and the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

**Dr. Kevin Finkel**, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of medicine at the L.B.J. Hospital, will serve as vice chair of clinical affairs. Finkel is a highly regarded expert in acute kidney diseases and kidney disorders in the cancer patient, and he brings considerable experience and expertise in clinical practice quality, efficiency, and accessibility.

"These three individuals represent the best of the Medical School in talent, work ethic, leadership, and collegiality, and will greatly help in guiding the department to national prominence in its missions," Kone said.



Dr. Orlander



Dr. Murray



Dr. Finkel



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

A part of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

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**BEAUTIFICATION  
GROUP SPRUCES UP  
GROUND FLOOR**

The addition of live plants to the Medical School's Leather Lounge is the result of a new group commissioned by **Dean Stanley Schultz** to brighten up the recently refurbished ground floor.

"The ground floor looks great now that the construction is complete, but it had a sterile feel to it that needed to be addressed," Schultz explained.

The Ground Floor Beautification Working Group convened in October and meets regularly to discuss enhancements for the Medical School's most public areas. The group is made up of members of the Medical School, including representation from the Dean's Office, Office of Development, Administration and Finance, Graphic Communications Group, and Employee Relations Council. It also has members from the Organization of Faculty Wives and Women Faculty.

In addition to the greenery, planned color and texture for the ground floor walls will include newly reframed Medical School class composites, which were damaged in the storm; employee-of-the-month plaques, which are already in place, and the Medical School's historic timeline. Space for proper donor recognition also has been identified.

"The main thing the group is doing is mapping out the space and deciding what will go where," explained **Abby Mitchell**, assistant dean for strategic development.

So far, the funding for the projects, which includes money for new holiday decorations, has come from the Dean's Office. However, the group hopes that donations of art or funds will be forthcoming.

"One area we would like to see is a faculty, staff, and student gallery, where we could showcase the talents of our Medical School community," Mitchell added.

To make a donation, or suggestions, contact Mitchell at 713-500-5001, or <Abby.Mitchell@uth.tmc.edu>.



(L. to R.), **Sheila Donnell, Heather McComb, Sue Yu, Sherry Dunn, and Rosalinda Deaver** helped design and decorate the Leather Lounge's holiday tree.

**MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM INVITATION**

All Medical School faculty members are invited to submit a proposal to participate in the Master Teacher Program.

By supporting a portion of the faculty member's salary during the year(s) of the award, the Master Teacher Program provides faculty members an opportunity to pursue educational interests and further the educational goals of the institution.

The program will provide up to 30 percent salary support for up to 30 faculty members in the Medical School.

The department chair and the division director (if any) must submit a letter endorsing the proposal and guaranteeing that the applicant will be provided with the time to carry out the proposed project. Faculty may be in a basic science or clinical department.

Preference for funding will be given to the following areas:

**Curriculum Development**, including: strategies for integration of longitudinal themes throughout the curriculum, e.g., women's health, neuroscience/neurology, cultural competence, humanism in medicine, aging; integration of basic sciences and clinical sciences across the four-year curriculum; development of transitional experiences for medical students, e.g., "March month" as transition from medical student to resident; and use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

**Evaluation**, including: development of clinical vignettes for use in basic science tests; development of teaching modules and instruments for assessing competency(ies) in the Medical School curriculum.

**Faculty Development**, including: development and implementation of strategies to improve and to evaluate basic science and clinical teaching skills; development of other resources to enhance faculty teaching; and

**Other Educational Initiatives as Proposed by Faculty.**

Faculty who wish to be considered for this program should submit a description of educational activities and a description of their proposed project. Proposals should be submitted to **Dr. Patricia Butler** in the Office of Educational Programs, JJL 304, by **Feb. 15, 2005**.

The proposal should be 1-2 pages in length and must include the estimated time commitment and enough detail to allow the review committee to adequately evaluate the proposal.

**FUJISE WINS PRESTIOUS AHA AWARD**

Hats off to **Dr. Kenichi Fujise** for winning the coveted Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association. The award, \$500,000 over 5 years, "will support my teaching efforts, as well as delivering health care, and doing exemplary research," said Fujise.



**Dr. Kenichi Fujise is congratulated by Dean Stanley Schultz on achieving the Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association.** **Drs. James Willerson, Bruce Kone, Heinrich Taegtmeier, and Ferid Murad**, for their support," he said.

Fujise came to the Medical School in 1996. Presently he is associate professor, Department of Internal Medicine and Division of Cardiology. In addition, he holds joint appointments at the Institute of Molecular Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. "I would like to thank

**A REMINDER TO  
EMPLOYEES WHO  
ARE  
BREASTFEEDING  
MOTHERS**



A room for breastfeeding mothers is available in the Medical School.

It is located on the third floor of the Jesse Jones Library Building and contains hospital-grade breast pumps and a refrigerator.

To check out the key, see **Sandi Soliz** in Educational Programs, JJL 304, or call 713-500-5140.