



Scoop

Feb. 13, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON


Events to Know

February

18 Graphics Standards Training, noon, MSB 2.135. Call 713-500-3137 to sign up.

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UTMost Interest

 **Drs. Ward Casscells, Parsa Mirhaji and Mohammad Madjid** met separately with **Senator Bill Frist** recently to discuss homeland security and influenza as bioweapons.

TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOLS MAKE IMPACT

According to "The Economic Impact of Medical College and Teaching Hospitals of the Association of American Medical Colleges (2002)," Texas medical schools' economic impact was more than \$19 billion in 2002 – nationally ranking fifth in economic impact. In addition, Texas medical schools provided more than 150,000 jobs (indirect and direct).

PROFESSIONALISM FOR ALL TO SEE

Dr. Eugene Boisaubin, professor of medicine, ethicist for clinical research, displays a code of professional responsibility plaque the department



recently received from the American Medical Association's STEP (Strategies for Teaching and Evaluating Professionalism) medical education initiative, which launched in September of 2003. For more information on STEP, see <www.ama-assn.org/go/step>.

DEVELOPING EMPATHY VIA ESSENTIALS OF MEDICINE ELECTIVE

Teaching students to become caring physicians and not fall into negative stereotypes is one of the goals of the Medical School's Health and Human Spirit Program. "Most doctors aren't at all like the stereotype you so often see in the media – a hurried white coated individual who only has 15 minutes for you and then you get a big fat bill," said **Dr. Judianne Kellaway**, associate professor and residency program director, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Science.



Dr. Judianne Kellaway

Kellaway excels in the humanistic side of medicine and has developed a clinical elective for Medical School students called the Essentials of Medicine series, part of the Health & the Human Spirit program. The course is offered through the end of February and meets at noon on Fridays in MSB 7.238. Anyone is welcome to attend. Kellaway said the course will be repeated several times throughout the years, giving a greater number the opportunity to join in.

Examples of topics covered in the Essentials of Medicine Program include: "Faculty-Resident-Student Interactions - Using the best our mentors have to offer, being, surviving every situation;" "The Patients' Perspective - A panel of patients present what it's like from their side, the best doctors, empathy in the doctor patient relationship;" "Difficult Scenes in Medicine - Best ways to break bad news, the angry patient;" and "Teamwork - Making the most of relationships in the Medical Team."

This is a busy time for the Health & Human Spirit Lecture Series. At noon, on Tues., March 30, **Dr. Jeffrey Bishop**, who teaches an ethics course at UT-Soutwestern, will address "On the Differences Between Faith and Science," in MSB 2.006. Lunch will be provided for the first 100 attendees.

The broad scope of the program is to integrate the science of medicine with the art of healing. In 1998, former **President M. David Low** started the Health & Human Spirit movement, Kellaway said. At the time, actress **Megan Cole**, who portrayed a woman transformed by cancer in the Pulitzer prize-winning play "Wit," came to campus to speak and galvanized some of the faculty to continue, and build on, the Health and Human Spirit concept. She is scheduled to return in March to teach a course on medicine in literature, blue book credit.

With the program's help, Kellaway hopes to develop the often underused right brain activities of a good physician – having intuition, empathy, and sensitivity to the person who walks through the office door for help. "My goal is to integrate the more utilized left-brain logical side of medical training, with the more intuitive right side," Kellaway said.

Kellaway believes this side of medicine is expressed from the moment a student first starts filling out a medical school application. "Why I want to be a doctor" and "Why I want to go to medical school" are two questions that prospective students are required to answer on a standard medical school application. Most of the students accepted into medical school emphasize their desire to help people and to be of service to humanity far and above the desire to plummet the depths of science or technology.

Drs. Eugene Boisaubin, Laura-Colletti, Philip Orlander, and Brent King, also are actively involved in the program. For information, contact <Judianne.Kellaway@uth.tmc.edu>. - C. O'Brien



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HOW WOULD THE HEALTH-CARE COMMUNITY RESPOND IF THERE WAS A BIOTERRORISM ATTACK IN HOUSTON?

Find out by attending the 11th Annual Health Care Team Competition 5:30 - 7 p.m., Tues., **Feb. 24** at the Dental Branch Auditorium, Room 207. The Health Care Team Competition involves students from every school within the Health Science Center, as well as students from the University of Houston. The event is free and open to the public, and special guests will include **Dr. Joseph McCormick** and **Dr. Susan Fisher-Hoch**, also known as the "virus hunters of the CDC." Find the event flier online at <<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/sic/HCTC/Flyer2004.pps>>, and more information about the competition at <<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/sic/HCTC>>.

DO YOU SUFFER FROM MIGRAINE HEADACHES?

If so, there is an important study being conducted at the Department of Visual Sciences that can help you conquer them! **Dr. Thomas Prager** is currently studying the effects of specially-treated contacts on migraines. In order to participate, volunteers must have been diagnosed as a migraine sufferer by a medical doctor and be at least 18 years old. Volunteers can be taking medication for their migraines, but they must not have any corneal problems or suffer from color blindness. No cost is associated with participating in this study. To volunteer, call 713-704-0507.

NOTE - The Medical School has offered 225 students (118 males and 107 females), admission to the fall 2004 entry class. There were 35 total minorities, including 10 African Americans, 24 Hispanics, and 1 Native American. Forty-six students were from A&M, and 35 were from UT.

SUPER BOWL UP CLOSE

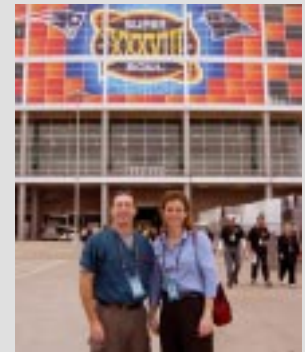
Editor's Note: Drs. Dave Robinson, Joanne Oakes and Shreya Bhavsar, Emergency Medicine, were all on hand to provide medical care at Reliant Stadium during the Super Bowl and brought back these photos.



Drs. Joanne Oakes and Shreya Bhavsar, Emergency Medicine, are on hand to provide medical care at Reliant Stadium.



Former President Bush at the game.



Drs. Dave Robinson and Joanne Oakes, Emergency Medicine, before the big game.



Actor Tom Arnold stops to take a picture with Dr. Dave Robinson.



IN THE NEWS - Dr. Ward Casscells (left) takes a moment to talk with Senator Bill Frist (middle), and Ambassador Ed Djerejian (right),

during a recent conference at the St. Regis Hotel in Houston on health-care issues.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR THE CHILDREN OF CLASSIFIED STAFF EMPLOYEES

Thurs., **April 15** is the deadline for students who are children of UTHSC-H classified staff members and are graduating from high school this school year to apply for scholarships funded by the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC). The program was founded in 2000.

For an application and more information about the scholarship program, visit <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/special_interest/committees/ucsc> and click on UCSC Scholarship Program.