



Scoop

Feb. 27, 2004


THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

March

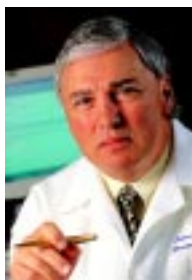
- 1 **Dr. Denis Rousseau**, "Structural and Functional Properties of Nitric Oxide Synthase," 11:45 a.m., MSB 2.135.
- 5 **RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION**. By Med School grad students. Faculty, staff, and students stop by 1-4 p.m., Fifth Floor Art Gallery. Buffet.

UTMost Interest

A device called The Ulert-UT Circular Heart project was touted in the *Houston Chronicle* (2/21/2004), featuring  **Dr. Richard Smalling**, Internal Medicine and **George Letsou**, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery.

VON ESCHENBACH IS COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Commencement for this year's Medical School's graduating class will take place 1 p.m. Sun., **May 30**, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. (See *Scoop* 12/12/03 for regalia information).



Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, director of the National Cancer Institute will be the commencement speaker.

Dr. von Eschenbach is a nationally recognized urologic surgeon who formerly directed the Genitourinary Cancer Center and the Prostate Cancer Research Program at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center. His primary research interest has been the treatment of locally advanced prostate cancer.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE FORMING

There's a softball team captain's meeting 6 p.m. Wed., **March 3**, at UT Housing, 7900 Cambridge. The softball league - co-rec on Monday nights and Men's on Tuesday nights - will be five weeks long followed by playoffs. Call 713-500-8422, or e-mail <chucky.l.son@uth.tmc.edu>.

DEAN'S SPECIAL LECTURER ADDRESSES RESEARCH IMPORTANCE

Dr. Neal Lane, recently appointed adjunct professor at the Medical School and the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, will address the Dean's



Dr. Neal Lane

Special Lecture audience at 4 p.m. Wed., **April 14**, in MSB 3.001, with his talk, "Why Should Society Invest in Research - and How Much Is Enough?"

Lane also is the Edward A. and Hermena Hancock Kelly University Professor at Rice University with appointments as senior fellow of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Widely regarded as a distinguished scientist and educator, Lane's many writings and presentations cover a wide range of topics, from theoretical atomic and molecular physics to science and technology policy. Lane has written or co-authored more than 90 scientific papers and publications, including a textbook on quantum physics. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Oklahoma and was recruited to the Department of Physics at Rice University as an assistant professor in 1972. He served as provost of that institution from 1986 to 1993.

Prior to returning to Rice University in 2001, Lane served in the federal government, first as director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and member of the National Science Board, and then as assistant to the president for science and technology and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Lane has received numerous awards, including the AAAS Philip Hauge Abelson Award, the AAAS William D. Carey Award, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers President's Award, the American Chemical Society Public Service Award, and the American Astronomical Society/American Mathematical Society/American Physical Society Public Service Award. He also has received many honorary degrees.

Lane is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Association for Women in Science and a member of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

COOPER LECTURER FOCUSES ON SOCIAL NEUROSCIENCE

The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences will sponsor the Twelfth Annual Harold Cooper Lectureship, "Social Neuroscience: A New Basic Science for Psychiatry," by **Dr. Thomas Insel**, director, National Institute of Mental Health, at 4 p.m., Wed., **March 24**, MSB 3.001. Insel's background includes focus on the neuropeptides oxytocin and vasopressin in social attachment, including maternal behavior, pair-bond formation, and aggressive behavior. Insel also has conducted clinical research on obsessive-compulsive disorders, conducting some of the first treatment trials using the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) class of medications.



Dr. Thomas Insel



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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE MEDICAL SCHOOL



In honor of Black History Month, The Student National Medical Association, presented "An African Gift," with performances

by Kuumba House dancers, Thurs., Feb. 19, in the Medical School's Fifth Floor Gallery.



- photos by A. Basha and C. O'Brien

"ULTRASOUND" TREATMENT FOR STROKES SHOWS PROMISE

Stroke Team doctors at the Medical School believe they may have discovered a new tool to use in the treatment of strokes, if results from a just-completed study are replicated in additional clinical trials. Physicians in Houston and three other centers used a hand-held extracranial ultrasound device to target stroke-causing blood clots in 63 patients during the pilot study. The sound waves are believed to seek out the clot and deliver a heavy dose of the clot-busting drug tPA to and through it, relieving the obstruction to blood flow and helping the brain heal.

Andrei Alexandrov, M.D., assistant professor, Neurology, initially began using the ultrasound device to track the efficacy of tPA, the only approved drug for treating blood clots in stroke victims.

However, emergency room nurses began telling him that patients who had been monitored in this way were recovering very quickly, faster than those he had not monitored. Alexandrov began a pilot study to determine whether the ultrasound itself had therapeutic uses.

"One hundred and twenty-six patients enrolled in the study, with an average age of 70," Alexandrov said. "Thirty-eight percent of the patients on whom I used ultrasound sustained a complete clearance of their clots within two hours (compared to 12 percent of the patients receiving tPA alone), and over 70 percent experienced a complete or partial clearance."

- S. Rasp



Dr. Andrei Alexandrov

2004 Health Care and the Arts Lecture Series

BEING TRANSFORMED: BY MEDICINE - BY ART

Time: noon – 1 p.m.

Location: MSB 3.001

Tues., **March 16:** "I Show You a Mystery... We Shall All Be Changed," with **John Lienhard, Ph.D.**, creator of the Public Radio Series, "The Engines of Our Ingenuity."

Thurs., **March 18:** "I Wanna Live Forever," with **Katherine Ciesinski**, Mezzo-Soprano, Houston Grand Opera.

Thurs., **March 25:** "A Radical Transformation: 'Wit' on Stage v. 'Wit' on Video," **Megan Cole**, actor and visiting professor, UTHSC-H.

Thurs., **April 1:** "The Enhancement of Sexuality – Viagra's Ethical and Social Effects," with **Laurence B. McCullough, Ph.D.**, Baylor, and **Eugene Boisabuin, M.D.**, Department of Medicine.

Tues., **April 13:** "Surgically Transforming the Way We Look: How It Changes Who We Are," **Norman Rappaport, M.D.**, Baylor; and **Helena Michie, Ph.D.**, Rice University.

Thurs., **April 15:** "Music, the Brain, and Neuroscience," **Robert A. Yekotvitch, D.M.A.**, Shepherd School of Music; **Anthony Brandt, Ph.D.**, Shepherd School of Music, and **David B. Rosenfield, M.D.**, Baylor.

Tues., **April 20:** "Making Small Children Bigger: A Medical and Literary Perspective on the Use of Growth Hormone," **Patrick G. Brosnan, MD**, Pediatric Endocrinology, and **Teri S. Lesesne, Ed.D.**, Sam Houston State University.

Thurs., **April 22:** "A Literary Exploration of Transformation: The Bible to Franz Kafka," **Robert Phillips, M.A., B.A.**, and **Rebecca Morres**, U of H.

Tues., **April 27:** "More Stories, Less Theory: Different Ways of Knowing," **William Monroe, Ph.D.**, University of Houston.

Wed., **April 28:** "Gender Transformation in Shakespeare and in Modern Film," **J. Dennis Huston, Ph.D.**, Rice University.

A part of the program is funded by a grant from the Texas Medical Foundation. The general public is invited and welcome. For further information, contact the office of **Dr. Stanley Reiser**, 713-500-5080. Blue book credit for attending 8 of 10 lectures.