



Scoop

Nov. 19, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

November

19 RESEARCH DAY, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. All interested UT personnel invited.

26 NO SCOOP, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. Next issue **Dec. 3.**

December

2 HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Leather Lounge.

10 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Medical School ground floor.

UTMost Interest

The Department of Radiology has officially changed its name to the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging...**Mike Bridgett** will step in as interim DMO in that department, replacing **Jerry Ellis**. A search for a permanent DMO is in progress.

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Join us for a Holiday Open House for cookies, punch, and a tour of the Medical School's newly refurbished ground floor.



The celebration begins at 11:30 a.m., Friday, **Dec. 10** throughout the ground floor and will last until 1 p.m.

FUNDRAISER FOR NEW LECTURE SERIES



Dean Stanley Schultz and Chair of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging Susan John joined forces to raise funds to support a lecture series in honor of former Chair John H. Harris Jr., who is retired, at a dinner for friends and colleagues recently.

MERCER TAKES ON THE ROLE OF DIVISION DIRECTOR, SURGERY

Dr. Richard Andrassy, chair, Department of Surgery, has appointed vice chair **Dr. David Mercer** to the role of division director of General Surgery, effective Sept. 1, 2004.



Dr. David Mercer

Mercer joined the Medical School in 1993. He is president, Society of University Surgeons, and chair, Student Evaluations and Promotions Committee. He has a surgical appointment at Memorial Hermann Hospital and is chief of surgery at LBJ General Hospital.

Mercer is certified in advanced trauma and life support as well as advanced cardiac life support. He is a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners and the American Board of Surgery. He received the Dean's Excellence Award for Teaching in 1996. For many years he has been an Admissions Committee interviewer, a mentor for the Summer Research Program, and a member of the Student Evaluations and Promotions Committee.

Mercer received both his undergraduate degree – graduating magna cum laude – and his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He did both his surgical internship and residency at Temple University Hospital and was a critical care fellow at the Pediatric Heart Institute at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, as well as a clinical instructor in surgery at Temple University Hospital before coming to Texas.

He has sponsored numerous postdoctoral fellows as well as medical student and resident presentations. Mercer is presently participating in several research projects, including a \$1 million grant, "Gastric Dysfunction Following Shock: Therapeutic Strategies."

NIKAIDOHS' GIFTS FUND SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMENCEMENT AWARD

A \$200,000 gift to establish and endow the Hitoshi Nikaidoh, M.D., Scholarship for Humanism in Medicine, and a \$20,000 gift to endow the Hitoshi Nikaidoh, M.D., Award to be handed out at commencement, have been generously given to the Medical School by Hitoshi's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Hisashi Nikaidoh of Dallas.

Dr. Hitoshi Christopher Nikaidoh, a 2003 Medical School graduate, was tragically killed in an elevator accident just three months after commencement. Nikaidoh excelled while on campus. He was the recipient of the Gold-Headed Cane Award for Humility, Humanity, and Fidelity by his fellow classmates; and he held the position of Student InterCouncil president, representing students throughout all six schools of the campus. Nikaidoh helped to establish the MediSend project to distribute surplus health-care supplies to underdeveloped countries. He also was instrumental in inaugurating Salutation '99, an all-school welcome reception to introduce new students to institutional leaders and the mission of the university.



Dr. Hitoshi Nikaidoh

"Through the thoughtful and timely contributions of his parents, and through others who have been inspired by his example, the memory of Dr. Hitoshi Christopher Nikaidoh will live on," **Dean Stanley Schultz** said.



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

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E-Scoop online:
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MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP SATURDAY, DEC. 4

Now is the opportunity to surplus your unneeded furniture and equipment. Capital Assets Management and Environmental Health and Safety have agreed to organize a Medical School hall sweep for the Medical School Building and the John Freeman Building Saturday, **Dec. 4**.

“The State Fire Marshal’s Office has written up the Medical School for the amount of items we have in our hallways, and this is our opportunity to comply with his mandate to remove combustible furniture, equipment and other items from the halls,” **Claire Brunson**, director, Management Services, said.

In order to provide this service, several requirements must be followed:

1. All transfer of equipment forms must be faxed to EH&S (x8111) by the end of the day Wednesday, **Nov. 24**, so that all laboratory equipment going to surplus can be inspected by EH&S.
2. All items for surplus should be clearly identified and labeled.
3. All standard surplus procedures should be followed: items unlocked, cleaned, cleared out, and any trash disposed of properly.
4. Additional information on surplus procedures and surplus forms can be found at <<http://buy.uth.tmc.edu/cam/procedure.html>>.

Questions can be addressed to **Elmer (Buddy) Moore** (x8195), or **Bruce Brown** (x8103).

Please take advantage of this opportunity. After this sweep, anything remaining in the halls must be approved by EH&S.



Dr. Allen Cowley

DEAN’S LECTURER ON CAMPUS DEC. 8

Dr. Allen W. Cowley will be on campus at 4 p.m. Wed., **Dec. 8**, to deliver a lecture on the “Evolution of the Genetic Map of Cardiovascular Function,” in MSB 3.001.

Cowley is the director of the NIH Specialized Center for Hypertension Research at the Medical College of Wisconsin, which seeks genes responsible for high blood pressure, as well as the director of an NIH training grant in high blood pressure research. He has been chairman and professor of the Department of Physiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin since 1980.

BRIDGING GRANTS DUE & ANNOUNCING A JUST-MISSED GRANT PROGRAM

Requests must be received by **Jan. 5, 2005**, for renewal grant applications that have not been funded within the past 9 months by a federal agency and that fall within the top 35th percentile. Send to **Dr. John Byrne**, MSB 7.046. Submit proposals up to \$50,000 for up to one year maintenance. Include a statement letter from the PI’s chairperson, a summary statement, the reviewers’ comments, and information about continuing and new research. Also provide the previous summary budget.

In addition, the Medical School has established a “Just Missed” grant program to provide support to those applicants of new NIH grants who place in the top 25th percentile, but who have not received funding, to serve as a complement to the Bridging Grant. For more information, contact **Laura Ross** at 713-500-5538.

2004 WINNERS OF THE C. FRANK WEBBER PRIZE FOR STUDENT RESEARCH



Dr. Gary Rosenfeld and **Dean Stanley Schultz** congratulate first-prize winners **Christine Seaworth** and **Cecily Kelly**.

Students, faculty, and staff gathered on Oct. 28 in the Fifth Floor Gallery for poster presentations and Webber Prize awards. The posters were the culmination of projects by first-year medical students during the 2004 Summer Research Program. The program is sponsored by **Dean Stanley Schultz** and **Dr. Patricia Butler**, associate dean for Educational Programs. Director of the program is **Dr. Gary Rosenfeld**. Major support is

provided by an NIH grant through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Co-winners for first place – first time in program history – were: **Cecily Kelly**/faculty mentors **Allison Scott, M.D.**, and **Richard Haynes,**

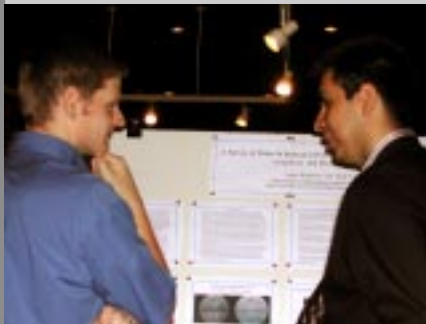
M.D., Orthopaedic Surgery, “Body Mass Index as a Prognostic Factor in Infantile Blount Disease;” and **Christine Seaworth**/faculty mentor **Emily Robinson, M.D.**, Surgery, “Effects of Nitric Oxide Inhibition on Endotoxin Induced Gastric Matrix Metalloproteinase Activity.”

Second-place winner was: **Celinie Biquart**/faculty mentor **Constance Albarracin, M.D., Ph.D.**, Pathology/GSBS, “The Use of Tissue Microarray Technology in Establishing the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor as a Prognostic Marker in Primary versus Metastatic Breast Carcinoma.”

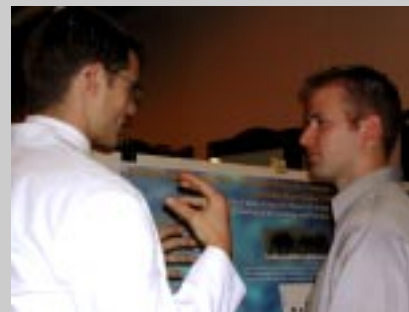
Third-place winner was: **Jaime Hinojosa**/faculty mentor **Heidi Kaplan, Ph.D.**, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, “Stress-Induced LPS O-antigen Alternations in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Burkholderia cepacia*.”



(L. to R.) **Reginald Hence**, **Shelley Joseph**, and **Xavier (Uzo) Odili** review the research.



(L. to R.) **Jeffrey Baker** and third-place winner **Jaime Hinojosa** discuss the details.



(L. to R.) **John Stirton** makes a point with **Adam Childs**.