



Scoop

Oct. 22, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

October

22 Dr. Marlene Cohen to address blood and marrow transplantation, noon, SON 508.

25 J. P. Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge, 3.5 mile run, 7:30 p.m. Call **Dustin Childers**, 713-500-3258.

28 Student Research Forum, poster displays and the Webber prize for Student Research Competition, noon, Fifth Floor Gallery.

29-30 School of Nursing and Student Community Center Open House, 6901 Bertner noon - 6 p.m., Oct. 29; 9 a.m. - noon, Oct. 30. All UT personnel welcome. For information go to <<http://www.uthouston.edu/sonsc/openhouse.htm>>.

November

11 16th Annual William S. Fields Lecturer, Dr. Jerry Mendell, noon, MSB 3.001.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Austin Stack, Internal Medicine, was recently awarded the "Patrick Meenan Medal for Research in Medicine" at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Medical Graduates Association and North American Alumni Association at University College in Dublin, Ireland.



FACULTY HONORS CONVOCATION WRAPUP



(L. to R.), **Dr. Ferid Murad**, **Dr. Peter Traber** (Baylor president and CEO), and **Dean Stanley Schultz** share a moment of fellowship before the ceremonies Oct. 6.

KONE TAKES A PLACE AT THE TABLE AS AAAS FELLOW

Dr. Bruce Kone, a molecular biologist, holds many titles. He's chair, Department of Internal Medicine, and adjunct member, The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, for example. Recently, he received one of the highest honors in general science, that of being elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Dr. Bruce Kone

"You are being honored for distinguished contributions to the fields of cell signaling, ion transport, and gene regulation, particularly for studies of nitric oxide synthases and ion motive ATPases," wrote Alan Leshner, chief executive officer of AAAS and executive publisher, *Science*, to Kone. On Feb. 19, 2005, Kone will officially receive the award and a rosette during the AAAS Fellows Forum, part of the association's annual meeting, in Washington, D.C.

Presently Kone is the principal investigator for several NIH-funded grants, including "Function and Renal Regulation of X/K-ATPase Isoenzymes," "Regulation of Inducible Nitric Oxide Synthase in Kidney," "Postdoctoral Research Training Program in Renal Diseases and Hypertension," as well as a project titled "Molecular Pathogenesis of Gut Injury in Multiple Organ Failure" in the NIH-funded Trauma Research Center.

In addition, Kone has headed up the directorship of the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension at UT Medical School at Houston and Section of Nephrology at U.T. M. D. Anderson Cancer Center since 2000. He believes that it's important to have preventative programs for, and treatment of kidney disease. "It's not well recognized that kidney disease increases a person's

(Continued on back)

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE, MEGAN COLE, ON CAMPUS NOV. 1

How do we talk about things that nobody can see — invisible things like emotions and empathy — and connect them to the daily life of a physician or a patient? **Megan Cole**, new artist-in-residence, and a professional actress and originator of the leading role in the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Wit," will present "Becoming an Empathic Physician: Lessons from the Dramatic Arts." The presentation, at noon on Mon., **Nov. 1**, MSB 1.006, is the first in a series of six sessions.

"Art and literature are essential to the development of a humane sensibility. Film and theatre — especially in the masterful hands of Megan Cole — slip by our psychological defenses," said **Dr. Tom Cole**, director, John P. McGovern, M.D. Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit. "We identify with characters, feel for them, and thereby enlarge our capacity for empathy and moral imagination."



Megan Cole



THE UNIVERSITY
of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL
AT HOUSTON

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

Stanley Schultz, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Director
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597

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DIVERSITY STARTS WITH YOU

The UT Health Science Center Diversity Council wants to hear your candid, honest comments about diversity efforts at the health science center. An online feedback form has been created to help the council capture and understand your feelings about working at the health science center.

Your anonymous answers will help to develop questions for focus groups and surveys that will play a part in making this university a “workplace of choice.”

All health science center faculty, staff, and students are asked to visit <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/council/divcouncil.html> and click “Online Town Hall Questions.”

KONE IS NEW AAAS FELLOW, CONTINUED

risk for other chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, and hypertension.” Though it doesn’t get the media exposure that heart disease and stroke do, kidney disease is a serious affliction. More than 50,000 people die each year because of kidney disease and 20 million more are affected by related urologic diseases.

Besides being a highly funded and published researcher, Kone is proud of his role in mentoring more than two dozen postdoctoral fellows, several of whom have gone on to academic faculty positions.

“We are dedicated to teaching and leading by example the next generation of doctors and clinical scientists, hopefully inspiring some into academic investigative careers. I am honored the AAAS has designated me a fellow and I look forward to sharing this honor with my department,” he said.

- C. O'Brien

STUDENTS MAY PURCHASE NIGHT & WEEKEND PARKING PASS

UT Health Science Center students may now purchase a card allowing parking privileges during evening and weekend hours in the UT Professional Garage (formerly the Hermann Professional Garage).

The charge for the card is \$30 for six months – July through December and January through June. A \$10 deposit will be refunded when the card is returned in good working condition.

“The price will not be prorated – students will have to pay the \$30 for the six-month period, regardless of when they decide to start the program,” said **Charlie Figari**, vice president and chief auxiliary enterprise officer. “However, because there are only a couple of months left until January, the price for this period will be \$15.”

Students may park in the garage 5 p.m. – 8 a.m. seven days a week (all day Saturday and Sunday).

“It is very important that even when the gates are up, that the students’ proximity cards are swiped in front of the reader so that the green light appears. That assures the card has been registered – if that doesn’t happen, the card will not let you in the next day and it will have to be reset,” Figari said.

Students are asked to park above the fifth-floor level.

Students interested in purchasing a card must go to the UT Professional Garage parking office (6414 Fannin - Suite G25) and sign a contract. Call 713-704-2027 for more information.

- D. Brown

Editor's Note: The Outstanding Employee Award is presented quarterly to Medical School employees who go beyond what is expected in their job duties. To be eligible, a nominee must be a full-time classified Medical School employee, for a minimum of one year. See <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - SOULAT KHAN

“Kula am wa antum bi-khair” is Arabic for “May you be well throughout the year.” It is one of the phrases Muslims say to each other, as over one billion around the world, including our own employee of the quarter, **Soulat Khan**, observe Ramadan, a special month that started Oct. 15. “Many Muslims fast from dusk to dawn during this period,” said Soulat. The usual practice is to have a pre-fast meal or ‘suhour,’ before dawn, and a post-fast meal, or ‘iftar,’ after sunset.

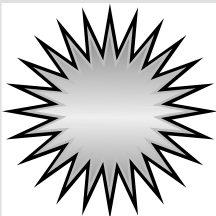
“It’s a process of focusing on what you have, rather than on what you don’t have,” said Soulat. “A pillar of Islam — Ramadan — is a time of charity, adherence, and doing all the good deeds you can at every possible moment.”

Soulat Khan should know about good deeds. A Web site and content coordinator for the Dean’s area, Soulat is known for figuring out complex technical problems that stump others and for going above and beyond the call of duty. “I remember the weekend I spent pouring over redesigning the entire Medical School’s Web site,” he said. “**Bassel Choucair**, my supervisor at the time, came in the next morning and said, ‘You’re in the same clothes that you were in yesterday.’ I said, ‘Yep, I’ve been here all night.’ Afterwards, Bassel and I got a commendation from **Dr. Max Buja**.”

Next year, Feb. 24, will be Soulat’s third year with the Medical School. His first priority when he came on board in 2002 was just making normal Web pages for the Medical School. Now under the leadership of **Dr. Bill Weems**, Soulat said he’s been able to grow a lot, both in Web design and Web development. “I’m very thankful for Dr. Weems’ experience and how he facilitates the programming styles for both the Medical School and the Office of Academic Computing (OAC),” Soulat added.

Soulat enjoys the fast pace and unique challenges that information technology can bring on a day-to-day level. “I like working with different people, facing different tasks, and difficult challenges,” he said. “As my responsibilities grow, so do the challenges. And that’s quite empowering.”

The mascot at the high school he attended — Kempner in Sugar Land, and the college — U of H Central, where Soulat graduated cum laude, just happens to be a cougar. And like that powerful figure, this employee is on his way to leaving his tracks at the UT Medical School at Houston.



Soulat Khan