



Scoop

Sept. 24, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

September

28 Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society Election of New Members, 5:30 p.m., MSB 2.006.

30 SECC Kickoff, 10 a.m., **Dean Stanley Schultz** to speak, Leather Lounge.

October

4 Dean's Town Hall Meeting, noon - 1 p.m., MSB 3.001. Anonymous questions may be sent to <Alexis.L.Basha@uth.tmc.edu>.

12 Fair Labor Standards Act Discussion, noon, MSB 3.001.

UTMost Interest

Dean Stanley Schultz hosted a dinner to honor newly promoted faculty Sept. 10 at the



Rice University Faculty Club. **Dr. Tom Cole**, the new director of the Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit, was the featured speaker...**Dr. Yong-Jian Geng**, director, Center for Cardiovascular Biology and Atherosclerosis Research, recently addressed "Stem Cell Therapy in Cardiovascular Disease" in Kapadokya, Turkey. He also gave a talk on "Inflammation, Atherosclerosis and Acute Coronary Syndrome" at an international heart forum in Beijing.

MEDICAL SCHOOL SHOWS ITS APPRECIATION

Fall-like weather helped a super turnout of employees for the annual Employee Appreciation Day Sept. 15.



Lakesia Johnson, Graphic Communications Group, serves up some lunch fixins.

BERM PROJECT DELAYED, START EXPECTED NEXT MONTH

The berm project, which will feature earthen berms and hydrostatic walls as a secondary flood protection measure for the Medical School, has been put on hold. The project was to begin in August, but due to problems the contractor had with its bonding status, the project had to be re-bid.



"The new bids are expected to be in Oct. 4, which means the project should be under way in late October," said **Ernest Walkup**, project engineer/manager from

Facilities Operations.

The northwest/Fannin side of the berm project will commence first, and the whole project, which is FEMA approved and funded, will take about a year, Walkup said.

"The work was to start the following Monday after Parking Lot A was closed," Walkup said. "And it's been suggested that we reopen the parking lot in the interim; however, we hope to have the berm project started up in 30 days, which would mean we would have to clear it again, plus all of the access controls to the lot have been removed."



Architect's rendering of Webber Plaza



Dr. Z. Hong Zhou

March of Dimes, a Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences, and an Established Investigator Award from the American Heart Association.

ZHOU WINS MICROSCOPY AWARD

Dr. Z. Hong Zhou, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, recently received the Microscopy Society of America Burton Medal Award. The Burton Medal honors outstanding contributions of young scientists in the field of microscopy and microanalysis. Zhou is an associate professor and joined the Medical School faculty in 1997. His research interests are in viruses and macromolecular complexes using electron cryomicroscopy, three-dimensional reconstruction, and computer modeling. Zhou's other awards include a Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar of

MSRDP BOARD ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The following faculty members have been elected to the Medical Service Research and Development Plan Board as at-large members for the term Sept. 1, 2004 - Aug. 31, 2006: **Dr. Joe Bedford**, Family and Community Medicine; **Dr. Ian Butler**, Neurology; **Dr. Terry Clyburn**, Orthopaedic Surgery; **Dr. Chris Cocanour**, Surgery; **Dr. Anthony Estrera**, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery; **Dr. Gene LeSage**, Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; **Dr. Susan Luehr**, Anesthesiology; **Dr. Pedro Mancias**, Neurology; **Dr. Ron Portman**, Pediatrics/Nephrology; and **Dr. David Robinson**, Emergency Medicine.

The MSRDP Board is the governing group of the faculty practice plan and is comprised of both department chairs and at-large members elected by the clinical faculty, 36 percent of whom cast a ballot during the recent election.



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A part of The University of Texas
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“TOGETHER WE CARE” SECC CAMPAIGN BEGINS SEPT. 30

Come on out 10 a.m., Thurs., **Sept. 30** to the the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) Kickoff event in the Medical School Leather Lounge. **Dean Stanley Schultz** will say a few remarks and SECC representatives will be on hand to provide information to all employees. Giveaways will include drawings for REC Center memberships, gift certificates, and other goodies.

Last year, the SECC raised \$7.7 million for charities throughout Texas.

There are dozens of agencies from which employees can choose to donate to. These are just a few: Sheltering Arms Senior Services, YMCA, Salvation Army, Montrose Clinic, Houston Area Women’s Center, the Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston, and the United Way of Texas Gulf Coast.

For more information visit <<http://www.uth.tmc.edu/2004secc>>.

SOUTH AFRICAN ETHICIST TO SPEAK NOV. 1

A research ethics specialist from South Africa, **Nhlanhla Mkhize, Ph.D.**, will present “Indigenous Concepts of Personhood, Health and Illness: Implications for IRBs,” at noon, Mon., **Nov. 1**, in the Fifth Floor Gallery of the Medical School.

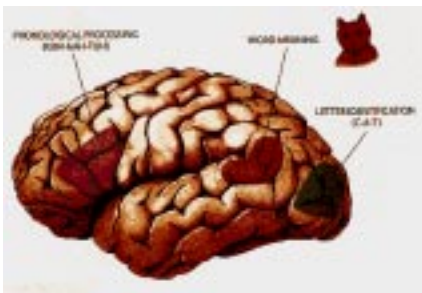
IRBs are institutional review boards that are charged with monitoring human subject research. At the UT Health Science Center at Houston, the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects serves as the IRB.

Mkhize lectures in psychology and was recently appointed to the Research Ethics Committee of the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Office of Research Support Committees, <Paula.L.Knudson@uth.tmc.edu> or 713-500-5856. The event is hosted by the Health Science Center.

CHILDREN NEEDED FOR READING STUDY BY UT MEDICAL SCHOOL NEUROSCIENTISTS

Researchers in the Department of Neurosurgery need right-handed children aged 7-12 to participate in a non-invasive functional brain imaging study of dyslexia.



Dyslexia is a reading disability that, without adequate and early intervention, often persists into adulthood. One of the problems faced by individuals with dyslexia is difficulty grasping the sound structure of the language and learning the correspondence between written and spoken language.

Study participants will undergo Magnetic Source Imaging (MSI), a functional brain imaging technique that does not involve radiation or magnetic fields. It is completely safe and painless. Subjects will be asked to lie still and listen to words and sounds.

Children who are good readers as well as those with reading problems are being sought.

Compensation is offered. Call **Maribel Briones** at 713-797-7584.

- S. Rasp



Pirates of the Curry-Bean team took first place last year and Dr. McKinney joined in the fun.

PUT FRI., OCT. 8 FOUNDERS FUN FEST ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

An extensive buffet by Ninfa’s, the band “Infinite Groove,” a chili cook-off competition, and a hot salsa contest should add up to an afternoon of fun and fellowship Fri., **Oct. 8**. All students, faculty, and staff are invited!

Chili team cook-off registration deadline is **today**. Register online at <<http://www.uthouston.edu/funfest/registration.html>>.

The annual university-wide party is scheduled from 2 - 6 p.m. at the Texas Medical Center’s Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

For more information, see <<http://www.uthouston.edu/funfest/index.html>>.

PRESIDENT’S SCHOLAR AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING ANNOUNCED

Dr. Barry Davis, professor and director of the Division of Biostatistics and the coordinating center for clinical trials at the School of Public Health, will receive the research award and **Dr. Catherine Flaitz**, Dean of the Dental Branch, will receive the teaching award at the Faculty Honors Convocation Wed., **Oct. 6**.

Davis coordinated the single largest clinical trial ever conducted related to hypertension.

Flaitz is known in local, national, and international arenas as an expert in the full spectrum of dentistry, from clinical practice to research.

James T. Willerson, M.D., president, will present the 2004 awards. Each award carries a \$5,000 prize. “These honorees were nominated by their peers and recommended for these awards by an Awards Committee made up of representatives from each of our six schools,” Willerson said.

The event will start at 4 p.m. followed by a reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

MICROBIOLOGY & MOLECULAR GENETICS TO HOST FALL MEETING NOV. 4-6

The Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics will host the 2004 Texas Branch Meeting of The American Society of Microbiology **Nov. 4 - 6** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Sessions planned include: post-genomic approaches to microbiology, DNA and RNA metabolism, vaccines, host-microbe interactions, membrane transport systems, emerging infections, and educational resources. The best graduate student talk in general and in medical microbiology will be recognized with the O.B. Williams and S.E. Sulkin Awards, respectively. For more information, visit <<http://mmg.uth.tmc.edu/TX-ASM-2004>>.