



# Scoop

July 22, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### July

**25-26 Medical School's Bookstore closed due to inventory**

**27 MSRDP Board Meeting.** 4-6 p.m. MSB 2.103. All clinical faculty invited to attend.

**27 2005 Primary Care Leadership Training Program.** Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. surgeon general, to speak. 10 a.m., Dental Branch, Rm. 207. Details: [www.db.uth.tmc.edu](http://www.db.uth.tmc.edu)

## UTMost Interest

### Dr. Pamela Berens,

Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive



Sciences, was quoted in the *Houston Chronicle* about the risk factors involved with the birth control patch.

## Speakers focus on "serving underserved"

Everyone is invited to attend the American Medical Student Association's 2005 Primary Care Leadership Training Program, Serving the Underserved."

Events include:

- **July 25: Tawara Goode, M.A.**, director of Georgetown University Medical Center National Center for Cultural Competence, 10-11:30 a.m., DBB, Rm. 340
- **July 27: Dr. Joycelyn Elders**, former U.S. surgeon general, 10-11 a.m., DBB Rm. 207, **Dr. Charles Terrell**, vice president for diversity and policy, AAMC, 1:30-2:30 p.m., DBB Rm. 207; **Dr. Richard Haught**, president, American Dental Association, DBB Rm. 207; 4:30-5:30, reception in DBB lobby.

## RENHAO LI'S GRANT APPLICATION RANKS HIGHEST IN STATE

When **Renhao Li, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Center for Membrane Biology and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, submitted a grant to the American Heart Association earlier this year, he was hoping only to get funding to continue his studies of a platelet receptor needed for proper hemostatic functions.

Li received the AHA grant, \$124,000 over two years. And he received much more – his grant application, "Intracellular Regulation of Ectodomain Shedding of Glycoprotein Ib-alpha," was ranked highest of the 91 applications to the AHA from new investigators for the year, which resulted in his receipt of the prestigious American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, Lyndon Baines Johnson Research Award for 2005.

"Dr. Li was the first new faculty member recruited to the Center for Membrane Biology, and we are pleased his research program is taking off so well. He is a superb experimentalist as is evidenced by this new award, his previous Temin award from the NIH, and his recent Welch research grant," said **Dr. John Spudich**, director of the Center for Membrane Biology.

"We are certainly proud of Dr. Li's accomplishments," added **Dr. Rodney Kellems**, chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. "This is a great recognition for him and for the Medical School. In addition to this recent accolade, he also holds a prestigious Howard Temin Award from the National Cancer Institute."

(Cont'd. on back)



Dr. Renhao Li

## CLANTON NAMED HEAD PHYSICIAN OF HOUSTON ROCKETS

**Thomas O. Clanton, M.D.**, professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, has been named the lead team physician for the NBA's Houston Rockets.

The Rockets announced Clanton's appointment July 5 during a news conference to publicize Memorial Hermann Healthcare System becoming the official health care partner for the Rockets, the Houston Comets and the Houston Aeros.

"It is an honor to be selected as the lead team physician for the Houston Rockets. They are a championship organization with some of the best athletes in the world," Clanton said. "They should expect the best medical care available, and we will be providing that through the partnership between Memorial Hermann Hospital and The University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

"Our faculty members, including both full-time and clinical volunteer faculty in medicine and orthopaedic surgery, will be providing the necessary medical care for the players and their

(Cont'd. on back)



Dr. Thomas Clanton



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of TEXAS

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Produced weekly by the Office of Communications



## NEW TRAVEL PROCESS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL TAKES OFF

Flying the friendly skies just got friendlier – especially for those doing the complex financial management system processing required for business travel. A new two-person travel team has been formed for the Medical School to take on the complicated and often frustrating tasks of entering travel transactions into PeopleSoft – both before-travel forms and after-travel reimbursements for employees and consultants.

**Virginia Morales** and **Karen Smith** make up the new team in the Office of Finance and Administration, which is presently being piloted in the departments of Surgery, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, Neurobiology and Anatomy, Pediatrics, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Dean's Offices. It will be expanded to include more departments over the summer and the whole Medical School will be a part of the new program by Sept. 1.

“We created this team to speed up the reimbursement process and to create a customer-oriented travel procedure,” explained **Angela Hintzel**, director of finance. “Having travel experts onsite will take a lot of pressure off of the central employee reimbursement team, which was fielding numerous questions from the Medical School.”

The new travel process involves revised forms that must be filled out by the traveler's office – one for travel authorization and the other for the traveler's expense worksheet. Departments are also still responsible for making all travel arrangements, such as booking hotels and flights and handling registrations. Forms, which will soon be made available online, may be turned in to the Finance and Administration Office MSB G.150, or faxed to 713-500-0620.

“Our goal is to process complete and accurate travel forms in one business day,” Hintzel added.

### Food drive fun



Staff member Michele Stanton served as Child Development Center food drive coordinator, arousing young people's interest in the Food Drive. The youngsters, their parents, and staff donated nine boxes of nonperishable food items to the UT Bags Hunger campaign, benefiting the Houston Food Bank. The Medical School set a school record, donating 35 boxes to the Texas Medical Center/Channel 11 Spirit of Texas Food Drive last week. Thanks to all who contributed.

## NEW BILLING COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

The Office of Research is announcing a new billing compliance program, which will be mandatory effective Sept. 1 for all new clinical trials. The goals of this program are to:

- simplify and clarify the clinical research billing processes;
- reduce the risks of inappropriately billing patients and/or third parties; and
- full cost recovery of clinical research studies.

When this goes into effect, the Office of Sponsored Projects will require the detailed Federal or Non-Federal Internal Budget and Determination of Research Services form submitted with the Review and Approval form. Utilizing the designated forms, the study billing accounts must be established prior to study enrollment and the outpatient clinics must be notified of all research activities prior to or immediately at the time of service.

Training for this program will be from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at MSB B.610 on the following dates: Aug. 2, Aug. 10, Aug. 16, and Aug. 30.

To attend the training and reserve a lunch, please contact Catey Carter, RN, [Catharine.V.Carter@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Catharine.V.Carter@uth.tmc.edu), 713-500-3524.

Please visit the Office of Research Web site [www.uth.tmc.edu/research/](http://www.uth.tmc.edu/research/) and view the new [Clinical Research Budgeting and Billing](#) page for more information.

### Li award, cont'd.

A native of China, Li received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and did postdoctoral work in biophysics and hematology at the University of Pennsylvania.

His research focuses on elucidating the three-dimensional organization of the multi-subunit platelet glycoprotein Ib-IX-V complex – the lack of which leads to severe bleeding disorders. It is also involved in many cardiovascular diseases, including stroke.

“Since the shedding of a key subunit of this complex may determine the half-life of platelets in the body and how long platelet concentrates can be stored for transfusion, it is important for us to understand what regulates the shedding process and how. The transubunit regulation mechanism we hypothesize is novel, and is probably why the grant received such a high score,” Li said.

The LBJ Award has been granted for 29 years, and now for six years the Medical School has been home to the winner: 1982, **David J. Fisher, M.D.**; 1983, **Heinrich Taegtmeier, M.D., Ph.D.**; 1996, **Dale Hereld, M.D., Ph.D.**; 2001, **Kevin Morano, Ph.D.**; and 2003, **Yang Xia, M.D., Ph.D.**

### Clanton, cont'd.

families, as well as for other members of the Rockets' organization,” Clanton said.

Clanton specializes in the treatment of foot, ankle and knee injuries and serves as the university's director for fellowship programs in Foot and Ankle and Sports Medicine. He also directs the orthopaedic department at Memorial Hermann Hospital. Since the early 1980s, when he began his orthopaedic practice, he has had a keen interest in sports medicine. He is the co-team physician for Rice University's athletic programs and a team orthopaedic doctor for the Houston Texans.

-M. Raine