



# Scoop

June 17, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### June

**27 - July 12 TMC Channel 11 Spirit of Texas Food Drive.**  
Drop-off points throughout the TMC. Call 713-500-3035 for info.

### July

**4 Independence Day Holiday**  
**7 Faculty Promotions and Tenure Process Presentation.**  
5:15-6:45 p.m. MSB 2.103.  
Sponsored by the Office of Faculty Affairs and the Association of Women Faculty.

## MEDICAL SCHOOL PARTNERS WITH UTMB FOR CME SERVICES

The Medical School has officially joined forces with The University of Texas Medical Branch for a four-year contract to offer continuing medical education. As a result, the Medical School is outsourcing CME to UTMB, which will have UTMB employees based at the Medical School dedicated to UT CME activities, including grand rounds.

“This is a precedent-setting collaboration between two leading academic health-care institutions, and I am confident that the result will be improved CME offerings for our faculty,” said **Patricia Butler, M.D.**, associate dean for educational programs.

The Medical School’s CME office had been scaled back to a smaller operation that did not provide “full conference” services – i.e., providing hotel reservations and on-site services. The new office will have three on-site CME employees, plus access to additional resources at UTMB.

“The CME office will now provide full conference services for a variety of needs,” said **Dr. David Rassin**, UTMB assistant dean for continuing education.

UT faculty will have access to Web-based resources, and UTMB plans to enhance these services this summer. The current UTMB CME Web site is at [www.CME.utmb.edu](http://www.CME.utmb.edu).

“In the very near future we will have a new Web site that will reflect the collaborative approach of this innovative partnership between two University of Texas components,” said **Scott Hermstein**, executive director for community partnerships at UTMB.

## KNOBIL GIFT CREATES \$100,000 SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

When **Julie Hotchkiss Knobil, Ph.D.**, retired research professor and widow of renowned neuroendocrinologist **Ernst Knobil, Ph.D.**, heard that the Medical School sorely needed scholarship money for its students, she went to work. In 2001, as a member of The Organization of Faculty Wives and Women Faculty, Knobil served as editor of a cookbook produced by the organization titled *Something’s Cooking* to fund scholarships. But Knobil wanted to do even more. She personally gave \$2,500 to fund the Ernst Knobil Memorial Scholarship, named in honor and memory of her late husband’s work.

This year, Knobil had another idea. Instead of setting up a scholarship fund each year, she would set up a fund that would provide annual scholarships in perpetuity. She decided to create a \$100,000 permanent endowed scholarship that will benefit medical students for years to come.

“The faculty wives and women faculty and I saw the need and talked to the student affairs staff. We found out how badly they needed the money,” Knobil recalled. “The cookbook drew



**Dr. Julie Knobil**

(Cont’d. on back)

## Adding art



New artful additions, made possible by gift funds from the M. D. Anderson Foundation in honor of Mr. John Freeman, go up in the ground floor lounge of the Medical School Building.

## UTMost Interest



**Lawrence M. Ross, M.D., Ph.D.**, adjunct professor, Neurobiology and Anatomy, was elected president-elect of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists. He will become the group’s president in 2007.



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

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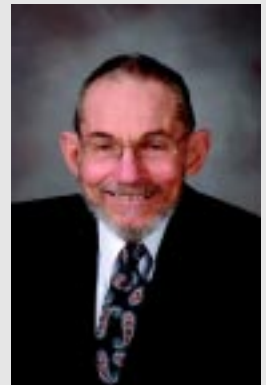
## DR. FRED WINS DISTINGUISHED MEDICAL EDUCATOR AWARD

**Dr. Herbert L. Fred**, professor, Internal Medicine, recently won the statewide TIAA-CREF Distinguished Medical Educator Award. His competition was distinguished as well. Fellow finalists were: **Denton Cooley, M.D.**; **James V. Johnson, D.D.S., M.S.**; **Daniel Musher, M.D.**; **Norma Rubin, Ph.D.**; and **Gwen Sherwood, Ph.D., R.N.**

Fred will be formally honored at a June 20 award ceremony. He has received at least one teaching award every year, over 50 years of an outstanding career. How many mentors can name, as their former students – a chancellor, a health science center president, three deans, two chairs of medicine, and nine division chiefs? Dr. Herbert Fred can.

The TIAA-CREF Distinguished Medical Educator Award, founded by TIAA-CREF and supported by the John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science, is given annually to honor teaching health-care professionals for their outstanding, work, significant contributions, and exceptional influence in the field of medical education.

It carries a \$10,000 honorarium from TIAA-CREF. In addition, 20 scholarships for underprivileged youths to attend the museum's Mini-Medical School Summer Camp will be given in Fred's name.



**Dr. Herbert Fred**

### NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT, CONT'D.

my attention to the need, but I also thought I should do something privately.”

The newly endowed scholarship, named the Ernst Knobil Endowed Scholarship Fund after the former Medical School dean, will provide scholarship support to students enrolled in the Medical School. When the scholarship is fully endowed, a deserving medical student will receive approximately \$5,000 each year, or about half a year's tuition and fees.

UT Health Science Center President **James T. Willerson, M.D.**, said that endowed scholarships are a top priority and critical to keep the doors to a medical education open to deserving students regardless of their financial circumstances. He calls the Knobil gift an investment in human capital.

“We are extremely grateful to Dr. Julie Knobil for investing in one of our most valuable resources – our students,” Willerson said. “This scholarship gift helps ensure that we attract and retain the most promising students.”

Medical School Dean **Stanley G. Schultz, M.D.**, recalls working as a colleague of Julie and Ernst Knobil when he was chairman of physiology at the Medical School. Schultz also worked alongside Ernst Knobil at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where Knobil served as chairman of physiology.

“Both Julie and Ernie Knobil were distinguished educators, and I can think of no better way to commemorate Dr. Knobil's name than with scholarships that recognize academic excellence,” Schultz said. “This wonderful gift recognizes his important work, and our students will greatly benefit from Julie's generosity.”

Julie Knobil retired from the UT Health Science Center in 1998 after working as a research professor of physiology and then integrative

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“During the 16 years I taught at the Medical School, I saw a lot of first-year medical students with a real need.”

- Julie Knobil, Ph.D.

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biology at the Medical School, where she lectured on mammalian physiology and perinatal endocrinology. The Albany, N.Y. native earned a Ph.D. in physiology from Harvard University in 1962, where she met her future husband. During their 40-year marriage, the Knobils carefully balanced work and family life, having raised four children.

“Ernst was teaching, and I was one of his students,” Knobil recalled. “He taught a lot of medical students and postdoctoral fellows throughout his career and had planned on retiring in 1999.”

After battling pancreatic cancer, Ernst Knobil died on April 13, 2000 at the age of 73.

Ernst Knobil was Medical School dean from 1981 to 1984. He was considered one of the world's leading neuroendocrinologists whose work provided the basis for the understanding of how hormonal imbalances affect a woman's menstrual cycle. This led to the creation of a successful treatment for infertility caused by low hormone production. The treatment has a 90 percent success rate in achieving pregnancy. Following his tenure as dean, Knobil remained active in the laboratory and classroom until his death.

Knobil is certain that her late husband would have joined her in supporting student scholarships.

“During the 16 years I taught at the Medical School, I saw a lot of first-year medical students with a real need. The enormous debt these kids were carrying was mind-boggling,” Knobil said. “They must have had a real vision in order to keep plugging away while carrying that kind of debt.”

Knobil said her family has been given much and doesn't mind spreading out her resources to help talented medical students – students, she said, deserve support.

-J. Preston

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