



# Scoop

May 13, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### May

**19 ANNUAL FACULTY MEETING**, 11:45 a.m.- 1 p.m., MSB 2.006. Lunch for first 150. Telecast LBJ Annex, Rm. 217, UT auditorium.

**25 Withers Lectureship, Dr. Scott Lillibridge**, "Family Medicine Without Borders," 1 p.m., MSB 2.135.

**28 Commencement**, 10 a.m., George R. Brown Convention Center. Commencement speaker is **Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis**.

### June

**15 Basement Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Medical School basement.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. James C. Grotta**, director, UT Stroke Team ([www.houstonstroke.com](http://www.houstonstroke.com)), was quoted in a recent in-depth stroke article, "Fatal Blockages, Stroke Victims Are Often Taken To Wrong Hospital," (*Wall Street Journal*, May 9)...**Dr. Oscar Rosales**, medical director of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Memorial Hermann Hospital, was featured in the *Houston Chronicle* (5/4/05), for performing a new, minimally invasive angioplasty technique on a patient's leg.

## FACULTY HONORED

**Dr. John Potts** takes a moment to congratulate **Dr. Virginia Moyer** at the Dean's Teaching Excellence Awards reception recently. More than 100 Medical School faculty were honored at the function.



**NOTE** - The Medical School leadership has formed a committee headed by **Dr. Patricia Butler** to discuss accommodating an increased class size (10 percent), anticipated for the fall of 2006.

## COLASURDO TO SERVE AS INTERIM CHAIR, PEDIATRICS

Dean **Stanley Schultz** has announced that **Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo** will serve as interim chair of Pediatrics, effective May 5.



**Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo**

**Dr. John Sparks** stepped down as chair and will resume leadership of the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine.

"Dr. Sparks served the School and the department with distinction, loyalty, citizenship, and commitment during his 10 years as chair. We thank him for his dedication and hard work," Schultz said.

Colasurdo is a graduate of the Gabriele D'Annunzio School of Medicine in Chieti, Italy. He joined the Medical School faculty in 1995 and is a recognized specialist in pediatric pulmonary medicine and an established investigator in the field of pediatric asthma. Colasurdo's pediatric residency was at UTMB and his fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Science Center and also at the National Jewish Research and Medical Center in Denver. He currently serves as division chief for the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

A committee headed up by **Dr. Larry Gilstrap**, chair, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, will start the search process for a permanent chair.

## ORLANDER IS ASSISTANT DEAN, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**Dr. Philip Orlander**, professor and director, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism, was appointed assistant dean for Educational Programs, effective May 1.

"He has been a long-term chair of the Medical School Curriculum Committee," **Dr. Patricia Butler**, associate dean, Educational Programs, said. "In this capacity Dr. Orlander has done an exemplary job of oversight of the curriculum. He is exceedingly interested in educational issues. The major focus initially of his work will be to move our curriculum forward as we prepare our students for future practice. Additionally, he will help the departments implement a relative value unit (RVU) system for teaching activities."

"I'm looking forward to working with Dr. Butler to develop new curriculum initiatives," Orlander said.

Orlander, also vice chair for education, Internal Medicine, was the recipient of the 2001 Award for Humanism in Medicine, was last year's recipient of the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award, and has been a multiple recipient of the Dean's Teaching Award.

Orlander has done extensive research, writing, and grant work on the subject of diabetes – as well as mentored many fellows.

More than 11 years ago, he and his colleagues started working with the standardized patient concept, applying it to the Medical School curriculum for instruction and evaluation. "We've been using the standardized patient concept with good success," Orlander said. A standardized patient examination was incorporated into USMLE Step II last year.



**Dr. Philip Orlander**



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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](mailto:M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu)  
Colleen O'Brien, Editor  
e-mail: [Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu)  
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597

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## 2005 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD - DR. ANDREW HARPER

The highest honor bestowed on an alumnus of The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, the Distinguished Alumnus Award, recognizes outstanding contributions to medicine and to mankind.



R. Andrew Harper, M.D.

The 2005 recipient is **R. Andrew Harper, M.D.**, a 1984 graduate of the Medical School. Upon graduation, he completed a residency in adult psychiatry and child psychiatry here at the Medical School and subsequently joined the faculty. Harper's contributions to this institution take place on multiple fronts. As an associate professor in the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and assistant dean for Educational Programs, he continues to make tremendous contributions to the life of the school that are befitting of the honor of being named a distinguished alum.

A native of North Carolina who graduated magna cum laude from Baylor University, Harper has been a dedicated and effective teacher both in the classroom and in the hospital. He is regarded among his peers as an outstanding role model for patient care and education. Named an assistant dean for education in 1996, he is known to students as a friend and mentor who takes the time to help others on a daily basis. Since 1996 he also has directed the Summer Enrichment Program with a personal dedication to helping students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enter a career in medicine. He has also directed our Pre-Entry Program for students.

Harper was appointed to the position of medical director of the UT Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC) in October 2004. This position underscores more than a decade of service at HCPC in key leadership roles overseeing the Child & Adolescent Programs along with other child psychiatry services. His experience as a clinician and teacher, especially in the areas of child and adolescent development, make him a highly sought after public speaker both locally and nationally. He also is active in multiple professional organizations.

Additionally, he is involved in telemedicine and is currently a co-investigator for a major grant from the Cullen Foundation – extending his professional reach far beyond the walls of the Medical School, HCPC, and our affiliated hospitals.

In the words of his nominator, "Dr. Harper has brought considerable credit to this institution. He is highly regarded as an administrator, an educator, a clinician, and a colleague."

- B. Boutwell

## RETRODIAGNOSING THE FAMOUS - CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Was it something he ate or drank? When famed explorer Christopher Columbus set sail for the New World in 1492, he was 41. Thirteen years later, he was dead. After his first trip to the New World, Columbus suffered from recurring bouts of fever, bleeding from the eyes, periods of blindness, and what appeared to have been crippling gout attacks. He definitely could have used a good rheumatologist.

**Dr. Frank Arnett**, the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology, said at a recent historical clinicopathological conference, that Columbus's symptoms indicate that he probably had reactive arthritis (formerly termed Reiter's disease). The disease is caused by bacteria such as salmonella, shigella, campylobacter, and Yersinia. These bacteria are common to food poisoning episodes, or other intestinal infections, as well as Chlamydia, a sexually transmitted disease.

"It sounds like it was more likely food poisoning," Arnett said. "From the information we have there was at least one epidemic on the ship in which the whole crew came down with some illness. Of course every kind of arthritis was called gout in those days."

Arnett found descriptions of Columbus, including common traits of northern European ancestry – tall, fair-skinned, and blue-eyed – to be of particular interest in his diagnosis of the historic figure. Seventy-five percent of those who develop reactive arthritics carry a gene (called HLA-B27) most common in northern European countries.

Participants at the annual University of Maryland School of Medicine's event, in the recent past have diagnosed the probable ailments of, among others: Edgar Allan Poe, Alexander the Great, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Florence Nightingale. Columbus was the tenth to be analyzed.



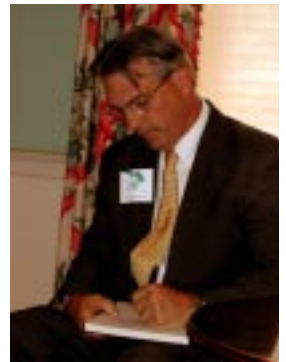
Dr. Frank Arnett

- C. O'Brien

## SPRING LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS DENTAL BRANCH

Dozens of attendees of the Medical School's Organization of Faculty Wives and Women Faculty listened to guest speaker, **Dr. Bryant Boutwell**, associate dean, Community Affairs, as he outlined a "History of The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston," at the annual luncheon May 9, at the Junior League Tea Room.

Outgoing president **Alice Moore** announced the newly elected officers for 2005-2006: **Kathy Smith**, president; **Harriet Schultz**, president-elect; **Carol Murad**, vice president; **Judy Fred**, secretary; and **Sharon Faro**, treasurer.



Dr. Bryant Boutwell signs his book *Conversation With a Medical School*.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Make way for the new and improved Medical School Basement.

Come to the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., **June 15**, in the Leather Lounge area.

We will celebrate a new beginning – a total "redo" of the area hardest hit by Tropical Storm Allison four years ago.

