



# Scoop

May 20, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### May

**23 10-week Summer Research Program Begins.** 52 MS Is and college undergraduates on campus. Call 713-500-5334 for more information.

**27 "Is it Just a Game? Performance & Ethics in Sports Medicine,"** 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 1515 Hermann Drive. Visit <<http://resource.library.tmc.edu>>.

**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

**Resa Ott**, former director, Alumni and Community Relations, UH-Clear Lake, is the Medical School's new associate director, Alumni Affairs... **Julie Page** is the new DMO, Department of Surgery... **Pam Bass**, adjunct faculty, Office of Student Affairs, was honored with a Tina E. Bangs Service Award from the Houston Association for Communication Disorders, at Trevisio May 9.

## SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC SCOOP DELIVERY

Due to budget constraints, as of **June 3**, the paper version of *Scoop* will no longer be mailed to readership outside the Medical School. Please be advised.

*Scoop* will continue both its paper distribution within the Medical School and its electronic availability and distribution to the general readership.

*E-Scoop* is readily accessible through the Medical School's home page at <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>>.

Readers can sign up for e-mail delivery of *E-Scoop Headlines*, arriving each Thursday afternoon in subscribers' e-mail boxes, by clicking on "Subscribe to E-Scoop" at <[http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community\\_affairs/escoop.htm](http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm)>, and entering an e-mail address.

## BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVES AMENDED RRF PLAN

As the construction of the Replacement Research Facility next to the Medical School Building commences, a recent U. T. System Board of Regents action will help ensure that when it opens, it will be a complete six-story building.

At its May 12 meeting, the U. T. System Board of Regents approved a \$25 million increase in total project cost for the Replacement Research Facility, bringing the total to \$80.53 million, including the build out of all four research floors and the vivarium. The original concept for the RRF called for only one research floor to be built out and the rest "shelled."

"The Board of Regents didn't give us the \$25 million, but they approved our amended plan so that we can ask for it. We're trying to get PUF (Permanent University Fund) money, philanthropic dollars, and we'll talk to the UT System," said **Dr. Michael McKinney**, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the health science center.

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES FOCUS OF TOWN HALL MEETING

Progress was the main item on the agenda at the May 11 Medical School town hall meeting. With the recovery of the Medical School Building from Tropical Storm Allison in its final phases, the berm project in full swing, and the Replacement Research Facility starting to take shape, exciting times are ahead for the Medical School, **Dean Stanley Schultz** told the audience.

Dean Schultz announced that a **June 15** ribbon-cutting ceremony will open the new grand staircase from the leather lounge to the basement, which will feature newly completed classrooms, the bookstore, Quick Copy, Supply Mall, and the Office of Communications.

"This celebration will inaugurate the concluding step of our four-year restoration of the Medical School," he said.

Dean Schultz also talked about plans to turn the temporary bookstore space in the leather lounge area into a coffee bar/sandwich snack area. "With the help of **Charlie Figari**, it will be a very nice facility where people can relax and have coffee. My only fear is that we will have long lines," he said.

The budget also was foremost on Dean Schultz's mind, and he said although the state budget is still not finalized, the Medical School's practice plan appears to be headed toward a profit.

"This fiscal year will require a certain amount of austerity on our part, but we have mandated a \$1,200 across-the-board increase for those employees making \$120,000 or less for next fiscal year," he said.

**Jim Victor**, project manager, Facilities Operations, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Replacement Research Facility and berm projects with photos during the various phases of the construction projects. The \$10 million berm project is scheduled to wrap up in **October**, and the Replacement Research Facility is on schedule for substantial completion by **May 2007**.



The grand staircase work progresses.



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of TEXAS

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## 2005 LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD - DR. LARRY GILSTRAP

Larry C. Gilstrap III, M.D., is the 2005 recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.



**Dr. Larry Gilstrap** The award honors a faculty member judged to be exemplary in his or her compassion and sensitivity in the delivery of care to patients and their families.

“To be honored for those qualities means more to me than anything,” said Gilstrap, chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and chief of Obstetric and Gynecology Service at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

“What I try to impart to students and residents is that we are here for our patients – they are not here for us. All too often we don’t give patients the chance to be in charge of their medical care.”

Gilstrap’s ultimate joy and pleasure is providing patient care, according to his nominator. “His enthusiasm is contagious for all medical students, residents, and fellows who are in contact with him,” wrote the nominator. “Even after over 30 years of delivering babies, he still has an ear-to-ear grin each time he is involved in the birth process. His

mentoring capabilities are exemplified in the time and attention he takes counseling each and every student who expresses an interest in obstetrics and gynecology.”

As one of the editors of the textbook *Williams Obstetrics* and holder of the Emma Sue Hightower Professorship in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, Gilstrap is fondly known as the “statue of liberty for obstetrics” as he promotes quality health care for women – carrying the torch not only for the patients and their families but also for all practitioners involved in women’s care.

“I would hope all physicians would strive to be kind and compassionate so that they could all receive this award,” he added.

Gilstrap received his medical degree from the University of Miami and was recently inducted into that school’s hall of fame. His numerous awards include the Outstanding Service Award from the Society of Perinatal Obstetricians, the Legion of Merit Award from the U.S. Air Force, and Wyeth Pharmaceutical’s Outstanding Faculty Award.

The previous recipients of the Humanism in Medicine Award are **Drs. Virginia Moyer, Oscar Rosales, Phil Johnson, John R. Stroehlein, Philip R. Orlander, and Cheves Smythe.**

- D. Brown

## SURGICAL, CLINICAL SKILLS CENTER TAKING SHAPE

Marrying the traditional aspects of physician-patient interaction with the latest educational technology, featuring mannequins and robotics, the Surgical and Clinical Skills Center (SCSC) promises to be an important resource for Medical School students in all years of the curriculum, as well as for residents, fellows, faculty, other practicing physicians, and industry and hospital partners.

The SCSC, which will be built in an 11,400 square-foot space in the Medical School basement, will be the new home of the standardized patient program, complete with 12 patient rooms, video control and monitoring rooms, and upgraded video equipment and software. For the past several years, this program has operated in leased space from the Houston Medical Center.

In addition to this clinical training program, the SCSC will feature highly complex simulated learning, where students will be able to repeatedly experience real-life scenarios using highly advanced mannequins that simulate normal breath, blood pressure, and other key vital signs while, at the same time, responding to the treatment. This space will feature two dedicated simulation operating rooms, a microsurgical skills lab with four stations, a large surgical skills wet lab with nine stations, and a virtual (PC) lab for students and residents to practice skills utilizing computers and/or task trainers. Mobile equipment and multiuse space will foster the SCSC’s functionality.

The planning for the SCSC has been in the works since Tropical Storm Allison afforded the Medical School the opportunity to imagine such a center. And although simulator centers exist in medical schools throughout the country, the one to be built here promises to be unique.

“No one else has done what we are doing with this center – creating a complete training center to serve diverse needs of the Medical School community and the larger medical community around us,” said **Dr. Brent King**, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine and head of the SCSC steering committee.

The steering committee has headed up the planning of the SCSC, bringing in representatives from various Medical School departments to create a center to serve a diverse population of medical trainees.

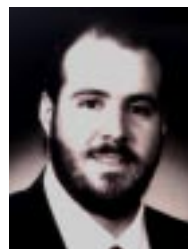
“We want this center to be inclusive – if we’re going to make this

investment, we want it to be used all of the time,” King added.

Planning now has moved from the programming phase – deciding what will go into the space – to the design phase, with the architects and faculty and staff pouring over each detail. Talks are ongoing with Baylor College of Medicine regarding collaborations in the instruction and evaluation of their medical students at this facility using standardized patients and for training in procedural skills.

The center has moved one step closer to reality with the recent appointment of **Eric Reichman, Ph.D., M.D.**, as the new director.

Reichman, director of the emergency medicine residency program and assistant professor, received his Ph.D. in anatomy from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD. He received his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he also completed a residency in emergency medicine. Before he joined the Medical School in 2003, he was director of the Surgical Techniques and Skills Laboratory in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Cook County Hospital and at Rush Medical College.



**Dr. Reichman**

“Getting the center built and equipped is our most immediate goal,” he said. “We expect that it will become operational in January 2006.”

In addition to Reichman, SCSC staff will include **Tamara Owens**, manager of the standardized patient program, an information technology specialist, a clerical person for scheduling, a technician, and a manager for the surgical side of the center. The SCSC will be under the umbrella of the Office of Educational Programs.

The only piece missing from the SCSC puzzle is equipment. The Medical School’s Office of Development is seeking funds and in-kind gifts to outfit the SCSC with the latest technology and has already raised more than \$900,000. The Vivian L. Smith Foundation recently gave \$250,000 to name and fund a surgical simulation operating room.

The health science center committed \$4 million for build-out costs, and the total project is estimated to cost \$15 million.

For more information on the SCSC, see the link on the Medical School’s homepage, <<http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>>.

- D. Brown