

## Events to Know

### January

- 31** McGovern Center Research Seminar: Dr. James Hollis (Jung Educational Center of Houston) to present **"The Psychology of the Wounded Healer."** Noon-1 p.m. MSB 2.135. Lunch provided for first 30 attendees.

**Wellness Fair**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Leather Lounge and Basement.

### February

- 2** **National Wear Red Day** and Brown Bag Seminar for Women and Heart Disease Awareness.

The UT Division of Cardiology sponsors **"The Heart Truth for Women"** by Dr. Pansy Tung. Noon MSB 3.001. Lunch provided to first 100 attendees. More info: [www.hearttruth.gov](http://www.hearttruth.gov).

- 6** Dr. Angelika Grundling (University of Chicago) to present **"Envelope assembly in Staphylococcus aureus."** 3-4 p.m. MSB 2.135.
- 8** Dr. William Navarre (University of Washington School of Medicine) to present **"Xenogenic Silencing – a novel mechanism of genomic defense against foreign DNA."** 4-5 p.m. MSB 2.103.
- 20** Dr. Jennifer Surtees (Cornell University) **"Finding a needle in a haystack: How mismatch repair proteins find and bind their DNA."** 3-4 p.m. MSB 2.135.

## UTMost Interest

**Dr. Carmen Dessauer**, associate professor of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and of the Graduate School of Biomedical Science, was recently appointed a member of the Cellular Signaling and Dynamics Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, of the National Institutes of Health. The appointment is through June 30, 2010.

## Hecht receives Distinguished Geneticist Award

The Texas Genetics Society has named **Jacqueline Hecht**, professor of pediatrics and vice chair of pediatric research, the recipient of the 2007 Barbara Bowman Distinguished Texas Geneticist Award.

Established in 1982, the award recognizes outstanding contributions to genetics in Texas and honors one of the founders of the Texas Genetics Society.

"I have had the unique opportunity to pursue a career that has been very exciting and very rewarding," Hecht said. "The practice of clinical genetics brings together two unique personality characteristics – a love of understanding differences and a need to communicate. I have been able to bring my skills as a genetic counselor into clinical practice and teaching and to start and direct the UT Genetic Counseling Program."



**Dr. Hecht**

The UT Genetic Counseling Program, the only program of its kind in Texas, has graduated 56 genetic counselors since its inception in 1989.

"Receipt of this award by Dr. Hecht appropriately recognizes her for her many, many contributions in the field of human genetics. It is well-deserved," said **Dr. Hope Northrup**, director of the Division of Medical Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics. "She joins a list of luminaries in human genetics from Texas who have received this honor, including Dr. C. Thomas Caskey of the IMM.

"Dr. Hecht's contributions have spanned multiple areas of human genetics from basic science discoveries to excellent clinical care to teaching the next generation of geneticists. She is truly a 'triple threat' in the area of genetics. Those of us in the Medical Genetics Division of the Department of Pediatrics are so very proud of Dr. Hecht!"

"Dr. Hecht's contributions to the academic environment of the Department of Pediatrics and the Medical School are truly exceptional. As a result, she now serves as vice chair of research in our department. This prestigious award reflects her national stature in the field of genetics," added **Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo**, chair of the Department of Pediatrics.

Hecht's research interests include identifying the genes contributing to the development of two common birth defects, nonsyndromic cleft lip and palate and clubfoot, and one type of short stature. She recently received a \$1.75 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue her studies of clubfoot, a congenital deformity that affects one of each 1,000 live births in the United States.

"This research will lead to a better understanding of the etiologies of these conditions, better recognition and perhaps therapies. This information leads us back to communication with the families and our ultimate goal of reducing the suffering associated with having a genetic condition," Hecht said.

Hecht will receive the award at 34th annual meeting of the group in San Antonio in April 2007, when she will make a presentation on her career and work.

-D. Brown

## Flu-heart connection results in national guideline change

Making the connections between the flu and heart disease is something that **Dr. Mohammad Madjid**, assistant professor of internal medicine in the Office of Biotechnology, has been doing for the last six years. And now, the nation's primary agency dedicated to heart advocacy and research has taken notice.

Madjid and **Dr. Ward Casscells** first made a breakthrough with this research in 2000, when they showed that flu shots reduced the risk for heart disease.

(Cont'd. on back)



## Conference Operations' Top 12 Procedures

### Reserving Conference Rooms, Lecture Halls and Classrooms:

- Reservations need to be made in writing to [ms.deancops@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:ms.deancops@uth.tmc.edu).
- Include setup and cleanup time when scheduling a room.
- ALL reservations for rooms end at 5 minutes before the top of the hour or 5 minutes before the half-hour. Dismiss your meeting on time as a courtesy to the next group coming into the room. ***This is critical to all classroom and lecture hall reservations. Conference Operations reserves the right to dismiss classes that run past the reserved time and another lecture or meeting is waiting to begin.***

### Food/Drinks in Conference Rooms, Lecture Halls and Classrooms:

- Box lunches packaged in cardboard or foam, or trays of items which are eaten using the hands rather than utensils are the only acceptable food items for classrooms and lecture halls (exceptions: MSB 5.001-Gallery & MSB G.100-EECC)
- No open fruit trays, green salads with dressings, or pasta salads are allowed in the classrooms and lecture halls. Uncut fruit or individual fruit cups or pasta salads with lids in a box lunch are acceptable (exceptions: MSB 5.001-Gallery & MSB G.100-EECC). (Prepackaged plastic utensils inside a box lunch are acceptable for use)
- Leave the room in the same or better condition as found on arrival.



### Audio Visual Assistance and AV Equipment Needs (including tables, chairs and room set-ups):

- All requests must be in writing for AV assistance and AV equipment to [ms.deancops@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:ms.deancops@uth.tmc.edu).
- Notification of AV assistance needs to be at least one week in advance, especially for table/chair setups.
- Rooms are set up with PC equipment that accommodates Windows Operating Systems (2000/XP –Professional Office Editions) Users of other systems will be required to bring their own laptop computers with proper adapters to use our PC equipment

### Conference Operations' Laptop Instructions & Policies

- Conference Operations is not responsible for downloading lecture materials on computers. Additional help in copying materials to flash drives and/or cds (we do not support floppy disc) must be provided by the departments' LAN managers. Only flash drives recommended by MSIT are supported by AV Technicians.
- Passwords or other forms of digital identification may NOT be shared with anyone under any circumstances. Users are responsible for logging off from the computer after each use. No one may attempt to access systems on the network without proper authorization from the appropriate system administrator.
- You may not reconfigure or otherwise adjust any settings on any UTHSC-H computer(s) software or hardware without explicit permission.

For more information see: [http://med.uth.tmc.edu/administration/con\\_operations](http://med.uth.tmc.edu/administration/con_operations)

## Flu-heart connection, cont'd.

"In animal models, we have shown that the flu virus inflames arteries and atherosclerotic plaque. Plaque inflammation can lead to heart attack in humans," he explained.

Madjid did further research on the flu-heart attack trigger link by reviewing more than 30,000 autopsies from St. Petersburg, Russia. His study, "Influenza Epidemics and Acute Respiratory Disease Activity are Associated with a Surge in Autopsy-Confirmed Coronary Heart Disease Death: Results from Eight Years of Autopsies in 34,892 Subjects" received the Young Investigator Award from Northwestern Cardiovascular Forum in 2006.

"We used autopsies from Russia because Russia has higher than 50 percent autopsy rate, versus a less than 5 percent autopsy rate from the United States. This makes our study more generalizable to the population. The influenza-heart connection is not special to any country," Madjid added.

As a result of these studies, at both basic and clinical level, undertaken at the health science center and confirmatory studies from other centers, the American Heart Association changed its guideline in 2006 to recommend the flu vaccination to heart patients as a secondary preventive measure.

"UT-Houston, should receive credit for changing the national guidelines. This work was strongly supported by **Dr. Jon Tyson** and **Dr. Jim Willerson**," Madjid said.

"He's a joy to work with and a great clinical investigator," said Tyson, who is mentoring Madjid as part of the master of science in clinical research degree program.

Madjid's study of the flu-heart disease connection will continue as he said he would like to embark upon a large clinical trial using flu antivirals against heart attacks.

-D. Brown

## Kozar named trauma chief at Memorial Hermann-TMC

**Dr. Rosemary Kozar**, associate professor in the Department of Surgery, has been named chief of Trauma Service at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.



**Dr. Kozar**

Kozar, who joined the faculty in 1999 as an assistant professor of surgery and critical care fellow, is internationally recognized for her work in gut failure in critically injured patients and nutritional support in critical care.

She is a member of the American Board of Surgeons, certified in general surgery and critical care medicine and is an active trauma surgeon and teacher. Kozar also is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Society of University Surgeons, Shock Society, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the Association of Academic Surgeons and the Association of Women Surgeons.

"Dr. Kozar is an extremely productive clinical surgeon and researcher," said **Richard Andrassy, M.D.**, chair of the Department of Surgery and associate dean for clinical affairs. "She has demonstrated excellent administrative, organizational and interpersonal skills, which will allow her to be an excellent trauma leader for the Medical School and hospital. She has been highly sought after nationally, and it is extremely fortunate that we have been able to have her accept the position as chief of trauma surgery."

Kozar graduated in 1986 from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia.

-M. Raine