



Scoop



Dec. 24, Observed Holiday
Dec. 27-31, Skeleton Holidays
Friday, December 17, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

► **Distinguished Lecturer in the Neurosciences, Dr. Eric R. Kandel**, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, "Genes, Synapses and Long-Term Memory," Thurs., Jan. 13, 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

UTmost Interest

The work of **Dr. Eric Thomas**, Internal Medicine, was instrumental for the Institute of



Hot News

Medicine's recent report on medical errors. The topic has been examined in recent weeks by national media as well as in medical forums...

Dr. Heinrich Taegtmeier, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Physiology*, Heart and Circulatory Section. His other editorial credits include Associate Editor of *Circulation*, Section Head of *Cardiology*, and on the Editorial Boards of *Circulation Research*, the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, and the *Journal of Congestive Heart Failure and Circulatory Support*....**Dr. Ba-Bie Teng**, Institute of Molecular Medicine, presented a seminar at the 10th International Dresden Symposium on Lipoproteins and Atherosclerosis...**Dr. Marilyn Edwards**, Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology, was an invited participant at the Nutrition 2030 Outcomes Research Workshop in Washington, D.C.

DR. CREASY IN LONDON

Dr. Robert K. Creasy, former chair and currently professor emeritus, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, presided over and gave the presidential address at the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society (AGOS) meeting recently. While in London, Creasy was also made an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS ON RESEARCH

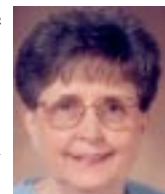
The NIH announced the formation of an advisory group charged with helping to reduce regulatory burdens on the research community. The report is available at <<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/regulatoryburden/index.htm>>.

DR. SIRBASKU'S BREAST CANCER PREVENTION TECHNIQUE

Dr. David Sirbasku, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is the recipient of a Susan G. Komen grant in the amount of \$250,000 for research directed to a new oral immunization study against breast cancer. Sirbasku's overall research program is also supported by grants from the U.S. Army Breast Cancer Research Program and a grant-in-aid from The Women's Fund for Health Education and Research, Houston, Texas. His research on cancer prevention has also led to looking at genetic information passed from fathers who have prostate cancer to daughters, in terms of susceptibility to breast cancer.

JEAN LONG NAMED 1999 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Jean Long, senior executive assistant in the Dean's Office, was named the 1999 Employee of the Year for the Medical School at its School December 16 holiday reception in the Leather Lounge. The January 1999 Employee of the Month, Jean was chosen by the Medical School's Outstanding Employee Awards Committee out of a field representing each of the twelve 1999 outstanding employees. Noted **Dr. Buja**, in presenting the award, "While the Dean's Office has no direct vote in the selection process, I couldn't be more pleased with the selection. The nominator for Jean summarized her well in stating, 'Her work at the highest level of Medical School administration is a model of efficiency and professionalism. She handles the pressures of administration with a smile and adds her own special touch that is caring and courteous to all.'" Jean Long joined the Medical School in the early 1990s when she transferred from UT Southwestern in Dallas (see *Scoop*, 1/8/99). While presenting Jean the Employee of the Year plaque and desk clock, Dr. Buja reminded all attending how important our employee awards program is in that the recipients of these awards are more than just award winners for the moment -- "They are role models for professionalism who reflect positively on each and every one of us in what they do and how they do it." The other Employees of the Month competing for the 1999 award deserve special mention, and include: **Karla Lewis**, Neurology; **Faye Viola**, Faculty Affairs; **Joan Miller**, Pediatrics; **Alison Goad**, Surgery; **Kim Meiser**, Admissions; **Virginia Solt**, Orthopaedics; **Brian Poindexter**, Pathology; **Jean Osterman**, Surgery; **Elizabeth Martin**, Integrative Biology & Pharmacology; **Carla Maywald**, Integrative Biology & Pharmacology; and **Birthelle Washington**, Auxiliary Enterprises.



Jean Long

C. FRANK WEBBER LUNCHEON FOR STUDENTS HELD

Last week a luncheon coordinated by **Debra Samuels**, Office of Education Access and Equity, honoring the 1999 C. Frank Webber Prize for Student Research winners, was held. **Dr. Gil Castro**, Office of Education Access and Equity, addressed the students and their mentors, praising them for their work and dedication. Students and mentors pictured are from left: **Tiffany Anderson**, MS II, **Ken Hirasaki**, MS II, **Dr. Agnes Guthrie**, Radiology, **Megan Schmidt**, MS II, **Dr. Joann Moulds**, Internal Medicine/Rheumatology, **Brian Bravenec**, MS II, **Dr. John Teichgraber**, (standing behind Brian), Surgery/Pediatric, and **Dr. Faouzi Kallel**, Radiology/Ultrasound.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



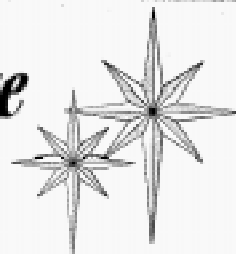
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Dean's Holiday Message



Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

Year 2000 marks many milestones for each of us as well as the UT-Houston Medical School. Just weeks from now we will observe a historic moment in each of our lives as 1999 yields to the new century. In addition, the School will recognize its 30th birthday (1970 -2000) during the coming year. In many ways, this holiday season will be different from all other holiday seasons you experience during your lifetime. Like those benchmark dates each of us has etched in our memories, January 1, 2000, is likely to be a moment you remember forever.

While Y2K has been the buzzword for international doubts and concern in our high-tech, computerized society, it can also be the buzzword for great optimism. After all, this new century represents our future and all we will accomplish individually and collectively as a School and a society. In that light, Y2K has a very positive ring — one I personally look forward to.

These historic last weeks of the 20th century provide a unique time to reflect upon where we've been and where we're going. In the spirit of looking forward, Donna and I wish each of you and your families the very best for the coming year. We have much to be proud of as we close out 1999 and much to look ahead to in our collective future.

As in years past, I'm printing this holiday message in *Scoop* so the money saved on cards can be donated to Goodfellows and the Adopt-A-Family program at LBJ Hospital. Wishing you a happy holiday and a productive millennium.

L. Max Buja, MD

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.
Dean

