



Scoop



Emily Dickinson
National Poetry Month

Friday, April 9, 1999

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - HOUSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

EVENTS TO KNOW:

- **Fourth Annual International Festival Day**, TODAY, Fri., **April 9**, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., HMB Picnic Grounds.
- **Annual Faculty Meeting**, Thurs., **May 6**, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., MSB 3.001.
- **Grant Getting Seminar**, sponsored by the Office of Research Services, and **Dr. John Grabowski**, Thurs., **April 15** and Fri., **April 16**, mornings, SPH, call 713-500-3075.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TODD ANDERSON

Todd Anderson, a research assistant in the Department of Surgery, organ transplantation, died Wednesday, March 31. The funeral took place in Conroe on Saturday, April 3. Donations to the family can be made through The University of Texas Medical School at Houston Division of Organ Transplantation, "Todd Anderson Fund," c/o Jim Hyland, 6431 Fannin, Room 1.212, Houston, TX 77030.

UTmost Interest

Dr. Patricia Butler, associate dean for educational programs, was elected to the position of vice-president, Houston Psychiatric Society; the installation of officers will take place **April 21**...**Dr. Barbara Sanborn**, biochemistry, spoke at the Society for Gynecologic Investigation on "Ion Channels and Regulation of Myometrial Intracellular Calcium" in Atlanta...**Dr. Pedro Ruiz**, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, was elected president elect, American College of Psychiatrists, 1999-2000 and was re-elected one of 16 directors to the national American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, 1999-2002...**Drs. Jeffrey Katz, Carin Hagberg, James Berry, and Mary Rabb**, anesthesiology, will participate in the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists meeting on **May 8** in Austin...**Drs. Richard Yee, Ghanshyam Patel, Richard Ruiz, and Michael Miyashiro**, ophthalmology and visual science, were published in *Cornea*...**Dr. Miyashiro** was also published in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* and *American Journal of Ophthalmology*.

DR. MARGARET UTHMAN NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN

Dean Max Buja has announced the appointment of **Dr. Margaret Uthman**, vice chair for education and associate professor, pathology and laboratory medicine, to assistant dean for educational programs, "effective immediately." Dr. Uthman will work with **Dr. Patricia Butler**, associate dean for educational programs, on curriculum development for the Summer Enrichment Program and Pre-entry Program, review of residency/fellowship programs, and development of undergraduate curriculum. Dr. Uthman received the Medical School's John H. Freeman Outstanding Teacher Award in 1997. The annual honor is based on student nominations and is presented to a faculty member based on their enthusiasm and teaching skills, personal interest in students' problems and educational goals and conveyance of high standards to students. She has been the director of the residency training program for pathology and course director for the medical students' pathology course for several years. Dr. Uthman is currently serving on the USMLE Step 1 Pathology test writing committee.



Dr. Margaret Uthman

CRESON DIRECTS JUVENILES & VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

Dr. Daniel Creson, professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, and program director, "Juveniles & Violence: Current Perspectives" conference set for Saturday, **April 24**, 8 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Room 2.006, left Wednesday, April 7, for Albania for two weeks as part of the Christian Children's Fund. Dr. Creson is no stranger to danger; he has also spent time in Bosnia and Croatia.

"People today have modern life pressures and conflicts that extend well beyond us but act upon us," said Dr. Creson, when asked about the nature of violence. "The consequences of violence and its negative effects are enormous and set the stage for generations."

Other speakers at the upcoming conference will include: **Drs. Dean and Marina Adjukovic**, both of the Public Health Society for Psychological Assistance, Zagreb, Croatia; **Dr. Lloyd Potter**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA; **Dr. Gerry Moeller**, psychiatry and behavioral sciences; **Dr. Christopher Thomas**, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, UT-Galveston; **Kim Ogg**, director, Mayor's Anti-Gang Office, City of Houston; **Dr. Steve Kelder**, UT-SPH; **Cheryl Robertson**, R.N., Minneapolis, MN; and **Dr. Alan Swann**, psychiatry and behavioral sciences. Concluded Creson, "Here in this country, with our emphasis on individualism, entrepreneurship, and taking social responsibility, we tend to see emotional outbursts, including anger. We have it all here, the good with the bad." For conference information call 713-500-5249. Continuing education credit is offered; advance registration is required.

STUDENT WINS GULF COAST BLOOD CENTER SCHOLARSHIP

Larry Anderson, an M.D./Ph.D. student here, has won a \$750 medical student scholarship from the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center for his paper, "Tumor immunization enhances graft versus tumor activity without exacerbating graft versus host disease in allogeneic bone marrow transplant recipients." The check and a plaque will be awarded to Mr. Anderson in a ceremony on **May 20** at the Holiday Inn Astrodome. Mr. Anderson's research mentor is **Dr. Craig Mullens** in the department of experimental pediatrics at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-HOUSTON
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Medical School

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TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT OFFICE MOVES

The Travel Reimbursement Office has *moved* to MSB G.107 (located off the hallway facing Webber Plaza). Their phone number is 713-500-5043 and office hours are:



Monday, Tues., Wed. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thurs., Friday 9:00 a.m. - noon

SPH CO-SPONSORS AIR QUALITY TALKS

UT-Houston School of Public Health (SPH), the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services, and the Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services will present "Complaints, Conditions and Controversy About Air Quality in the Houston Area," Thursday, **April 15**, noon-1 p.m. To be held in the SPH, 1200 Herman Pressler, Room 102A, the seminar speakers will address our area's air quality. Speakers are:

Herbert Williams Jr., J.D., Director of the Policy and Regulations Division of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, **Dr. Neil Carman**, Clear Air Program Director, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and Galveston-Houston Association for Smog Prevention, and **Dr. Winifred Hamilton**, research associate, Baylor College of Medicine. The Collaborative Brown Bag Series is sponsored by the Community-Based Public Health Program. Call 713-500-9164 for information.

**UT-HOUSTON OFFICE OF PLANNING ISSUES NEW IDENTITY GUIDELINES**

Following a review by the administrative leadership of all UT-Houston schools, the UT-Houston Office of Planning has posted updated guidelines on how to appropriately use the UT-Houston identity on all internal and external communications. The updated guidelines entitled "Use of the University Representation and Graphic Imagery" (Policy 1.05) apply to all UT-Houston schools and can be found online at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/admin_fin/planning/pub/hoop/01/1_05.html>. Says **Dean Buja**, "It is essential that we all work together to project our common image and identity with consistency. These updated guidelines are a useful resource that all employees should know and follow. From our business cards and office print pieces to interpersonal communication regarding where we work and how our UT identity appears, these guidelines give us a framework to work within that assures a consistent image. In the long run, they define our ultimate success as an organization." *Scoop* readership should watch UT-Houston publications for additional updates on these guidelines.

FIRST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEURO-AUGMENTATION

The First Annual Symposium on Neuro-augmentation and Intraspinial Therapy in Chronic Pain will take place **tomorrow, Saturday, April 10**, 8 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Scurlock Professional Building, 6560 Fannin, 4th Floor. The event is co-sponsored by the UT-Houston Medical School, Baylor, and UT-MDA Cancer Center. **Dr. Diane Novy**, associate professor, department of anesthesiology, will be addressing "Psychological Screening in Neuro-augmentation" and **Dr. Marilu Price**, psychology post-doctoral fellow, anesthesiology, will be addressing the "Standard of Care in Screening Patients for Implantable Technology." Neuro-augmentation involves the placement of a percutaneous electrode for stimulating a peripheral nerve or placement of the electrodes in the epidural space. The stimulation of the electrodes inhibits or dampens the pain signal to the brain. Neuro-augmentation is one of the modalities used in the treatment of chronic pain conditions along with medications, nerve blocks, PT and psychotherapy. For information call 713-704-2861.



Dr. Diane Novy

BRIDGING GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 14

Investigators (full-time Medical School faculty) with a renewal grant application (an ROI or the equivalent) that has not been funded in the past nine months by a Federal agency and is within the top 35th percentile may submit a proposal by May 14 for up to \$30,000 to maintain their program for up to one year. The principal investigator's chair should send a letter stating the amount and nature of the matching fund(s) or verifying their unavailability. Requests should be submitted to **Dr. John Byrne**, chair of the Medical School Research Committee (MSB 7.046). Submissions will include information on all other available research support and the dates covered by such support. Provide the original Summary Statement and Summary Budget, describing the last year of the previous grant, the reviewers' comments, the aspects of the research to be continued, and any new results (one page).

**CME ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE CONFERENCE - JUNE 17 & 18**

UT-Houston (UT-H) and Memorial Hermann Healthcare System (MHHS) are sponsors of "Modern Science and Ancient Wisdom, a complementary and alternative medicine conference for healthcare professionals." The CME program will be held **June 17 and 18** at the Marriott Hotel, 5150 Westheimer Road. Medical School students, residents and fellows can attend **free** (meals, syllabus and handouts not included) by showing their ID badge. **Dan Wilford**, MHHS president, and **Dean Max Buja** will give the welcome and overview. **Dr. Gailen Marshall**, chair, UT-H Medical School CME Advisory Committee and director of the Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, and **Dr. Richard S. Materson**, Medical VP, MHHS, are program co-chairs. Other UT-Houston faculty on the agenda are **Dr. M. David Low**, UT-H president, and **Dr. Mary Ann Richardson**, program director of the SPH Center for Alternative Medicine Research in Cancer. For more information, call **Beverly Osterloh** at 713-500-5128.

MICROBIOLOGY & MOLECULAR GENETICS' SPRING SEMINARS -

- **Dr. Katherine Borkovich**, UT-Houston Dept. of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, "Signal Transduction through G proteins and Seven-transmembrane Helix Receptors in a Model Eukaryote," Thurs., **April 15**, 4 p.m., JFB G.707
- **Dr. Rudolf Thauer**, Max-Planck Institute for Terrestrial Microbiology, Germany, "Biochemistry of Methanogenesis," Thurs., **April 29**, 4 p.m., MSB 2.135
- **Dr. Mark Gerstein**, Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry, Yale, "Comparing Genomes in terms of Protein Structure: Surveys of a Finite Parts List," Thurs., **May 13**, 4 p.m., MSB 2.135.