



# Scoop



Friday, April 13, 2001

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## EVENTS TO KNOW:

→ **Health Care & the Arts Program**, Wed., **April 18**, **Dean Michael Hammond**, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University, "Albert Schweitzer - A Complete Healer," noon, MSB 2.006.

→ **Dean's Lecture Series**, **Dr. Bruce Stillman**, director, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, "Duplication of the Genome," Wed., **April 18**, 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

## UTmost Interest

**Dr. Yong-Jian Geng**, Cardiology, has received a \$50,000 cardiovascular research grant from the Fourjay Foundation for his project, Regulation of Apoptosis in Atherosclerosis. In addition, **Caitlin Sara McAnemy**, a student mentored by Dr. Geng, has received a 2001 Alpha Omega Alpha Student Research Fellowship.



Hot News

## ANNUAL FACULTY MEETING

*Date changed.* Moved from May 15 to Thurs., **June 21**, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m., MSB 3.001. Lunch at 11:30 for first 200. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

**CONGRATULATIONS** - Cardiovascular surgeons at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, recently performed their 100,000<sup>th</sup> heart procedure using a heart-lung machine. Physicians responsible for this significant surgical accomplishment include: **Drs. Charles H. Hallman, Grady L. Hallman, George J. Reul, O. H. Frazier, James J. Livesay, J. Michael Duncan, David A. Ott, and Denton A. Cooley**, founder, president and surgeon-in-chief of the Texas Heart Institute and chief of cardiovascular surgery at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

**NOTE** - The National Board recently released data on USMLE Step 1 for the year 2000. Our students are required to take Step 1 after the second year and before the third year. The passing rate for UT-Houston students was 91%, compared to the national passing rate of 92%.

## DR. UTHMAN SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

**Dr. Margaret Uthman**, associate professor, Pathology, and vice chair for education in the Department of Pathology, has been selected for a prestigious fellowship attending multiple conferences and sessions in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women. Her letter of nomination states "Dr. Uthman is a master teacher, a superb clinician, an able scientist, and a good administrator." As a teacher, she has won nearly every award that can be won by the faculty here at UT-Houston. She was selected five times as the "Outstanding Teacher" in the pathology course, and twice received the prestigious "John G. Freeman Award," given annually by the graduating class to the teacher who most impressed them during their entire career. Her record in education administration is also outstanding. She is a highly respected hematopathologist who carries a heavy workload of service activities simultaneously with teaching and administration. She also serves as director, Pathology Residency Program.



Dr. Margaret Uthman

## TRAUMA RESEARCH CENTER AWARDED TRAINING GRANT

The Trauma Research Center (TRC) at the University of Texas-Houston Medical School has been awarded an NIGMS sponsored T-32 Trauma Training Grant, with a start date of July 1, 2001. This is a two-year program aimed at physicians who are interested in pursuing an academic career in trauma. The trainees (two per year) will participate in the collaborative laboratory investigative efforts of the TRC to elucidate the role of the gastrointestinal tract in postinjury multiple organ failure. Other important components include: 1) ethical dimensions of the biomedical sciences; 2) research curriculum through the School of Public Health; 3) research training for laboratory medicine and care; and 4) Informatics. For more information, visit the website at <<http://utsurg/uth.tmc.edu/trauma/>>.

## 2000 HONORS CONVOCATION SET FOR APRIL 23

**Dr. Kenneth K. Wu**, the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington chair, Gerontology, professor and director, Division of Hematology and the Vascular Biology Research Center, will be honored at the all-campus 2000 Honors Convocation, Mon., **April 23**, as the recipient of the 2000 President's Scholar Award for Research. **Dr. James T. Willerson** president, UTHSC-H, has extended an invitation to all faculty, students, and staff, to attend the event, to be held at the School of Public Health Auditorium, 1200 Hermann Pressler. A reception will follow in rooms 102 A and B, with free parking in the HMB parking lot.

## FINAL TRIBUTE FROM HOUSTON'S HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

The Hornberger Conference Center was full to capacity last Friday April 6 at 9 a.m. Those who felt **Dr. Tom Burks**, (former executive vice president, Research and Academic Affairs), had been their "best friend and supporter" were indeed many. They spoke of the man that has been gently laid to rest in East Texas as possessing kindness and humor, and a "can do" attitude toward seemingly insurmountable problems. For those who wish to make a contribution, checks payable to the **Thomas Burks Scholarship Fund**, UTHSC-H, can be sent to the Development Office, P.O. Box 20036, Houston, TX 77225-0036. The Health Science Center is providing matching funds.



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education

## DR. KOTHARI'S REHABILITATIVE WORK WITH PATIENTS

**Dr. Sunil Kothari**, a clinical assistant professor, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and a '95 graduate of the Medical School, where he completed an internship in Internal Medicine, has joined the TIRR (The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research) Brain Injury Program. Dr. Kothari was chief resident during his residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Rehabilitation Institute in Chicago. He has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Yale University and a master's degree in philosophy from The University of Texas at Austin. He works with inpatients at TIRR and also with acutely injured brain injury patients at Memorial Hermann Hospital. His focus includes strengthening the transition of patients from the trauma setting to rehabilitation. His clinical interests include neurobehavioral management and mild traumatic brain injury.



**Dr. Sunil Kothari**

## WELCH FOUNDATION FUNDING

One of the nation's oldest and largest sources of private funding for basic research, has just approved \$50,000 new grant awards to **Drs. Pawel A. Penczek**, associate professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, **C. S. Raman**, assistant professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and **John L. Spudich**, William M. Wheelless III professor, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

Faculty receiving increased grant amounts of \$50,000 each include: **Drs. Philip Carpenter**, assistant professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, nobel laureate **Ferid Murad**, scientific director, Institute of Molecular Medicine, **John A. Putkey**, associate professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, **Barbara M. Sanborn**, professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and **Z. Hong Zhou**, assistant professor, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Congratulations!



## NEW UNIVERSITY CARE PLUS PROVIDERS

The following is a list of clinical faculty who have been newly credentialed by University Care Plus (UCP), including their specialty: **Drs. Yamil Yasmin Alexander**/radiology, **Rahn Bailey**/psychiatry, **Ron Braughton**/physician assistant, **Helen Bullwinkel**/nurse practitioner, **Debra Clough**/psychiatry, child & adolescent, **Dr. Swapan Dubey**/emergency medicine,

**Morris Flaum**/hematology, **Delton Giles**/physician assistant, **Edythe Greenberg**/nurse practitioner, **Jon-Paul Hamilton**/psychiatry, **Mike Hopkins**/occupational therapy, **Sonya Johnson**/anesthesiology, **Richard Kizonas**/radiology, **Ajay Kwatra**/urology, **Quan Le**/emergency medicine, **Carol Maxwell**/social work, **Lori Meadors**/physician assistant, **Helen Mintz-Hittner**/pediatric ophthalmology, **Melinda New**/obstetrics & gynecology, **Lois Ramondetta**/gynecologic oncology, **Emily Robinson**/general surgery, **Donna Rocha**/psychiatry, **Laurie Schneider**/psychiatry, **Keith Schulze**/dermatology, **Helen Starkweather**/nurse practitioner, and **Rose Zuazua**/nurse practitioner. To search for a physician see <[www.ucplus.org/participation/public1a](http://www.ucplus.org/participation/public1a)>.

## April Employee of the Month - Irene Morales

Born in Panama City, Florida but a resident of Houston for over two decades, **Irene Morales**, Coordinator III, Dermatology, is our April Employee of the Month. Originally starting in the UT system at El Paso, Irene has been with the Medical School over 14 years. "Where else can you work and be among Nobel Prize winners?" Irene expresses with enthusiasm. "I like the people I work with - **Drs. Robert Jordon**, **Alelaide Hebert** and **Sharon Hymes**, and all my co-workers. We are all very supportive of each other." Irene is in her second year with ERAS, a residency application process that is totally automated and online, that helps to review 400 applicants and narrow down the eligible candidates to 50-60. "I do a lot of details, the filtering. My specialty is organization, and the online software has made my job a lot easier." Her supervisors say that Irene's strength is to take the initiative to learn software on her own and to immediately start putting it into practice.

"I love the diversity of this school. You meet people from all over the country and all over the world." Irene, incidently, has bilingual talent and a wealth of world experience. She has traveled and lived in San Jose, Costa Rica, in Mexico City, and stayed two years in Santiago, Chile, where her middle-school sons at the time, **David** and **Tony**, attended an international school. "We loved it. If I had the opportunity I'd retire to another favorite place of mine, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico."

Back home, having dual responsibilities coordinating residency training as well as fellowship training, is an "opportunity" to Irene. She works with the graduate medical education office, as well as with resident interviews, assisting in their selection, and then starting each chosen resident on a three year program. Her other 'opportunity' came just recently, when her DJ and music director son, Dave, from the number 1 radio station in Dallas, KISS-FM, took her to a live concert featuring "U-2" and set her up afterwards to meet Adam Clayton, the bass guitarist. "My other weekend passion, besides music, is volunteering. For the past three years I've worked with DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS in Houston). I guess I'm just excited about life. Whatever happens, you dust yourself off and just keep moving on."



Employee of the Month