



Scoop



Holidays Dec. 24, 25, 26, & Jan. 1; skeleton holidays Dec. 27, 28, 31

Friday, Dec. 21, 2001

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

EVENTS TO KNOW:



→ No *Scoop* Christmas week, Fri., Dec. 28, and New Year's week, Jan. 4. The next issue will be out Fri., Jan. 11.

→ **Clinical Nutrition Elective Lectures**, noon, MSB 2.103. Topics include Tues., **Jan. 8, Dr. Marilyn Edwards**, Medical School, "Overview of Medical Nutrition Education," and Thurs., **Jan. 10, Dr. Roberta Anding**, Baylor, "Use of Herbal Supplements." All interested are invited to attend.

→ **Bridging Grant** deadline is Tues., **Jan. 15**. Investigators with a renewal grant can submit a proposal for up to \$30,000 support. For further information, call **Marijane deTranlates**, 713-500-5633.

UTmost Interest

Dean L. Maximilian Buja was elected fellow of the American Heart Association and

fellow of the Council on Arteriosclerosis,

Hot News Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology...**Dr. Richard J. Andrassy**, Denton A. Cooley Professor in Surgery and professor and chairman, Department of Surgery, was the 38th Annual George V. Brindley, Sr., M.D. Lecturer at Scott and White Clinic, recently in Tyler, Texas...**Dr. Guy Clifton**, Neurosurgery, and **Dr. Red Duke**, Surgery, were quoted (*Houston Chronicle* 12-18-01), concerning appealing to the Texas Legislature to support trauma-center funding bills.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Ann Garcia, featured November Employee of the Month, is our Employee of the Year.



Ann Garcia

Ann is a nurse and therapist at the UT – Mental Sciences Institute. She works with patients with known substance abuse issues. She is involved in treatment through clinical management, relapse prevention, and motivational interviewing. Congratulations!

Dean's Message – MSB Update



Dean L. Maximilian Buja

Since my last update Nov. 9, work has steadily progressed on the renovation plans for the ground floor and basement of the Medical School Building. Three rounds of focus groups composed of building users and Philip Sun, Randy Sahni, and colleagues from the Llewelyn-Davies Sahni firm have met to give input on the building's programming. In addition, the BNIM architectural consortium is working on the strategic plan for the campus and its recovery.

We have received some very good news from FEMA: University Care Plus will receive \$2 million from FEMA for the restoration of medical records destroyed during Tropical Storm Allison. A local match of \$700,000 will be added to this sum to restore the records to pre-disaster condition.

In addition to these long-term plans, some temporary building plans are under way. The old cafeteria space will be converted into a temporary commons area for students and others, with a targeted date of mid-January. A temporary Learning Resource Center is being constructed in MSB 1.006 and is scheduled to be finished in early February.

Along with these modifications, cosmetic changes to the ground floor continue, with Sheetrock being installed and external generators removed.

GENG DELVES INTO T CELL RESPONSE IN ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Dr. Yong Jian Geng, director, Center for Cardiovascular Biology & Atherosclerosis Research, is principal investigator for a \$1M NIH grant, "CD-1 Restricted T Cell Response in Atherosclerosis." His research focuses on molecular mechanisms controlling cardiovascular cell death, inflammation, and regeneration during ischemic heart failure caused by atherosclerosis. Since joining UT-Houston in 1999, Geng has established a new research program to investigate transplantation of cardiovascular stem cells. He recently received nearly \$500,000 in grant funding from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Osiris Therapeutics, Inc.



Geng is a winner of a number of awards, including the ARA Parke-Davis Atherosclerosis Award 2000-02 and the Fourjay Foundation Cardiovascular Research Award 2001-02. He lectures throughout the world on the subject of apoptosis in atherosclerosis. In addition, Geng has been nominated for membership in The American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI).



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HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

MEDICAL SCHOOL

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SEASONS
Greetings

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students,

In many ways life will never be the same following the tragic events of September 11. For all of the families directly affected by the terrorist attacks of that fateful day, their holidays are especially difficult. Our thoughts are with them.



On the night of June 8, we had our own tragedy in the name of Tropical Storm Allison. While the estimated losses of the Texas Medical Center rank as monumental, our loss pales in comparison to the direct attack of terrorists on this country. Although the Medical School suffered a major blow, we will recover and come back better than ever.

The events of recent months can be looked at as dark moments in history as well as bright moments of heroism and opportunity. On a national scale, the demonstrated compassion and selfless dedication of firefighters, police, and health professionals alike captured the nation's heart and admiration. We have much to be proud of in our profession of caregiving.

Such events bring out the very best in who we are. Our own faculty, staff, students, and volunteers risked personal safety during the morning hours of June 9 to evacuate patients and save lives. Despite our losses due to TS Allison, we can all be proud of our efforts and patience during these difficult times. The School will recover and have nicer facilities than before. We also have the pride of recovery and knowledge that the worst of times brought out the best in who we are.

My holiday message is dedicated to the spirit of making good out of bad. We have much to be thankful for when we realize the resilience and compassion within our collective presence. As in the past, a donation to Goodfellows and the Adopt-A-Family program at LBJ Hospital will be donated as part of this Dean's message. Take a moment to give thanks for all we have and who we are. Donna and I extend our best wishes to each of you and your families for this holiday season.

Sincerely,

L. Maximilian Buja, MD

*L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.
Dean*