



Scoop



Friday, September 21, 2001

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

EVENTS TO KNOW:

→ **Clinical Research Curriculum/Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology**, "Causation - Bradford-Hill Criteria, Other Study Designs, Biases," Wed., Sept. 26, 5 - 6:30 p.m., MSB 2.135.

→ **Health and Human Spirit Lecture Series, Dr. Jeff Levin**, noon, Thurs., Oct. 4, "God, Faith and Health: Epidemiologic Reflections on Spirituality," MSB 2.006.

→ **Microbiology & Molecular Genetics Seminar, Dr. William Haldenwang**, 4 p.m., Thurs., Oct. 4, "Control of the General Stress Regulon of Bacillus subtilis: Gram Positive Bacteria have Novel Tales to Tell," MSB 2.103.

→ **Open Forum with Dr. James T. Willerson**, president, UT Health Science Center at Houston, noon, Tues., Oct. 30, MSB 3.001.

UTmost Interest

Dr. James T. Willerson, president, UT Health Science Center at Houston, chaired a meeting of the European editorial board of the journal *Circulation* earlier this month while he was in Europe attending the 23rd Congress of the European Society of Cardiology.



DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

Over 300 cows, original models sculpted by artist Pascal Knapp, have been creatively painted and now landscape the lobbies of Houston's medical, business, and government buildings, as well as public lawns, shopping malls, and downtown parks. Texas Children's Hospital will be the beneficiary of an auction in December. For more information, see Web site: <<http://houston.cowparade.net>>.



FYI - Richard Klausner, M.D., has announced that he is resigning as director of the National Cancer Institute. On Oct. 1, he will become the founding president of the Case Institute of Science and Technology. He will remain at NCI as an intramural researcher.



DEAN BUJA ANNOUNCES MSRDP ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. L. Maximilian Buja has announced the results of the recent election for the 8 open at-large positions on the Medical Service Research and Development Plan (MSRDP) Board. The board, established in 1996, operates as an organized clinical enterprise and works in conjunction with the complementary managed care group, University Care Plus (UCP). The mission of the group practice (MSRDP/UCP) is to improve the health of the populations by providing superlative, effective health care worthy of regional, national and international renown, in a setting of medical research, innovation and education. This effort fosters and supports the mission of the Medical School.

Drs. Adelaide Hebert, Dermatology; **Shahla Nader-Eftekhari**, OB-GYN; **Phil Orlander**, Internal Medicine; **David Wartners**, Anesthesiology; **Michael Ritchey**, Surgery; **Don Parks**, Surgery; **Ron Portman**, Pediatrics; and **John Potts**, Surgery, will serve a two-year term from Sept. 1, 2001-August 31, 2003. The following at-large members will continue their terms through August 31, 2002: **Drs. Laura Colletti**, Internal Medicine; **Grant Fowler**, Family Practice and Community Medicine; **Elizabeth Hartwell**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; **Allan Katz**, OB-GYN; **Kevin Lally**, Surgery; **Becky McGraw-Wall**, Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery; **Ian Butler**, Neurology; **Hope Northrup**, Pediatrics; and **Oscar Rosales**, Internal Medicine. Drs. Colletti, Katz and Orlander represent the at-large members on the Group Practice Steering Committee.

FACULTY ORIENTATION LUNCHEON ON OCT. 4

The annual New Faculty Orientation Luncheon, hosted by **Dean L. Maximilian Buja** and the Office of Faculty Affairs, will be Thurs., Oct. 4, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the 5th Floor Art Gallery. All new faculty appointed during the past year (since 9/1/00) are invited. At this luncheon a more detailed discussion of the Medical School will occur to compliment the social event for new faculty hosted by the Health Science Center leadership. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Carolyn B. Sherman**, 500- 5188.

TMC WINS 2001 AWARD FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE

The Texas Medical Center will be honored at the 15th annual Rice Design Alliance (RDA) Gala, Sat., Nov. 3, 7 p.m., 2450 Holcombe Blvd, formerly the Nabisco plant. The 2001 Award for Design Excellence will be awarded to the TMC for its commitment to design excellence. The RDA will celebrate the spirit of cooperation between the 42 institutions making up the Texas Medical Center. The TMC will also be recognized for its effort to improve the quality of the building environment and for its plans to reuse the Nabisco plant, (featured on the magazine cover, right). Architects, design professionals, engineers, contractors, and supporters are invited. Caterers will be Jackson & Company; the Island Mambo Jazz Kings will entertain. For more information, contact the RDA at 713-348-4876.



Nabisco plant



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

MEDICAL SCHOOL

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Dean's Message - Medical School Building Update



Dean L. Maximilian Buja

I know it has been some time since we met in town hall meetings to discuss plans for recovery from Tropical Storm Allison. I also know that everyone is anxious to learn about plans for recovery and their implementation. We are now at a point that I can provide you more information and I plan to do so on a regular basis going forward.

- To begin the planning process, the university convened a **Disaster Recovery Executive Team**, which has been meeting weekly since July to plan the recovery of the School. Members of the team include Dean L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.; John Porretto; Dr. George Stancel; Dr. Gil Castro; Terry Ansell; Judith Booker, Frank Collura; Jerry Ellis; Rick Gaines; Mark Merritt, of James Lee Witt and Associates; Pico Mina; and Brian Yeoman.
- **James Lee Witt and Associates**, which specializes in disaster recovery, was hired by the University to help with the process of securing federal dollars through the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Mr. Witt was the director of FEMA in the Clinton administration. In addition, the BNIM architectural consortium, with Mr. Bob Berkebile and Mr. Dick Rittleman as principals, has been brought on to participate in a strategic planning process.
- Reports have been submitted to both **FEMA** and the university's **insurance** agency. The University's insurance policy is for \$50 million and FEMA may reimburse from 75 to 100 percent of costs not covered by insurance, with the percentage under active negotiation.
- Before rebuilding can begin in the basement and on the ground floor, **FEMA** must approve the university's plan for rebuilding and mitigation. It is expected that FEMA will give a decision on the general plans for the ground floor and basement within a month.
- The plans for the **basement and ground floor** are not to simply rebuild these spaces. Instead, critical materials, such as gross anatomy labs, animal facilities, and electronic and mechanical gear will be moved to different locations so that they will not be in harm's way, should another storm hit.
- Preliminary plans for the **basement** include extending the main staircase of the building to the basement. The basement would have a student services focus and may house such areas as the bookstore, classrooms, and recreation areas, as well as offices.
- Preliminary plans for the **ground floor** include housing much of the electrical and switching gear, which previously was located in the basement. As soon as it is determined how much of this space will be taken, offices, classrooms, and other facilities may then be planned.
- **Focus groups** made up of faculty, staff, and students will be convened to give input into the rebuilding of the ground floor and basement. These focus groups will meet with architectural programmers who have been engaged for the project. Both floors will be gutted so that the architects will have a clean slate with which to start. An engineering firm has been retained to create a deconstruction plan.
- By Sept. 25, the last **elevator** will be up and running, and all 10 elevator cabs will be replaced.
- **Animal care plans** for the short-term include housing animals in 13 common rooms and six special rooms on floors 3 through 7 in the main Medical School building and 2 rooms in the John Freeman building. Architectural and construction plans have been approved to allow the JFB animal rooms to be ready by the end of September and in the animal rooms in the main Medical School building by mid-October. Animal space for larger animals also is being made available in the Dental Branch building and in M.D. Anderson facilities. For the short-term, the crematorium will be repaired in its present location in the basement.
- A feasibility study is being conducted on the **penthouse** to see what could be moved to the top floor of the MSB. Animals and mechanical equipment are two possibilities. The advocacy for maintaining the penthouse recreation center also will be given consideration in the contingency planning. The Knight Road facility should be opened by early next year and the expansion completed by next summer.
- For the short-term, the **gross anatomy labs** will be housed at Operations Center Building (OCB). They will be ready for the second block of classes, and students will be bussed there.
- **The Student Health Clinic**, which was previously located in the John Freeman Building (JFB) and is now located at the Children's Assessment Center, will soon be relocated to space within the Hermann Professional Building.
- The **Office of Academic Computing** has been relocated to the seventh floor of the University Center Tower.
- The **BNIM architects** are meeting with key individuals this week to assist in recovery plans for high-end instrumentation issues. These also must be relocated out of harm's way.
- The present **Cyclotron** will be decommissioned. The Cyclotron facility will be replaced elsewhere in the Texas Medical Center. Plans for the replacement facility will be prepared by advisory groups of UT-Houston faculty and esteemed scientists from around the country.
- A temporary **Learning Resource Center (LRC)** has been established on the second floor of the MSB. Construction plans are in place to renovate MSB 1.006 so that it can be used as an expanded LRC. The renovation work is being scheduled to be done with little disruption of prime study times and is scheduled for completion in 6 to 8 weeks. Computer capabilities throughout the building for students will be nearly tripled.
- Long-term plans call for the razing and rebuilding of the **John Freeman Building**. Plans estimate that a new building will be up in three years. Before this construction can take place, space will have to be found in which to house the offices, classrooms, labs, and other facilities that now make their home in the JFB. Once the JFB is rebuilt, it will house relocated functions such as the Center for Laboratory Animal Medicine and Care, the gross anatomy lab and classrooms, replacement labs for those once in the basement, Environmental Health and Safety, and high-end instrumentation. This new building will also include more state-of-the-art laboratory facilities.

Reports on our progress will follow on a regular basis.