



# Scoop



Friday, Aug. 17, 2001

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## EVENTS TO KNOW:

→ **Dean's Lecturer**, Wed., Sept. 12, 4 p.m., **Dr. Owen Witte**, "Lymphocyte Growth Regulation," MSB 3.001.

## UTmost Interest

**Jane Brust** is the new assistant vice president for Public Affairs...**Dr. Laura Torres**, Orthopedic Surgery, and **Dr. Terri Major-Kincade**, Pediatrics, will be on "Life-time" 9 p.m., Sat., **Aug. 18**, (Channel 40 on Time Warner Cable), as part of a special series on women doctors, featuring a dozen female UT Medical School physicians and Memorial Hermann medical staff, for a new nationally broadcast series called *Women Docs*. The next program, airing 9 p.m., Sat., **Sept. 8**, on Life-time, will include **Dr. Alicia Mangram**, General Surgery; **Dr. Crystal Cassidy**, Emergency Medicine; **Dr. Beatriz Cua**, Pediatrics; and **Dr. Patti J. Ross**, OB/Gyn...**Dr. John H. Byrne**, chairman, Neurobiology and Anatomy, and **Dr. Douglas A. Baxter**, associate professor, Neurobiology and Anatomy, are in Krakow, Poland this week to present their research at the 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference of Neurobiology.



## TMC FOOD DRIVE

The Texas Medical Center Food Drive, held in cooperation with the Houston Food Bank, will be Tues., **Oct. 16**, which also is World Food Day. There will be a salsa band, box lunches, soft drinks and water available, all for a good cause, feeding Houston's hungry. Watch for boxes to deposit canned goods in, about three weeks prior to the event. The Houston Food Bank's web site is <[www.houstonfoodbank.org](http://www.houstonfoodbank.org)>.

**FYI - Susan L. Lindquist, Ph.D.**, has been appointed director of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. Dr. Lindquist is presently an Albert D. Lasker professor of medical sciences, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, and a professor, Dept. of Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology, the University of Chicago. (Source: AAMC STAT, 8-13-01).

## DR. KAHAN APPOINTED TO HEALTH SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE

U.S. Secretary of Health **Tommy G. Thompson** has appointed **Dr. Barry D. Kahan**, professor, Dept. of Surgery, and director, Division of Immunology and Organ Transplantation, to a three-year term effective immediately, to the Advisory Committee on Organ Transplantation in the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Kahan is an internationally recognized expert in the field of renal transplantation and immunosuppression (see *Scoop* 3/2/01). He developed cyclosporine in the early 1980s and was the first physician to administer rapamycin to humans in clinical phase I and phase II trials. He recently published a dual-author volume on renal transplantation in collaboration with Claudio Ponticelli of Milan, Italy, titled, "Principles and Practice of Renal Transplantation."

## DR. BOUTWELL NAMED TO ASSOCIATE DEAN POSITION

In a move to combine the administrative leadership of the Offices of Community Affairs and Public Education, Alumni Affairs, and Continuing Medical Education, **Dean Maximilian Buja** has named **Dr. Bryant Boutwell** to a new position of Associate Dean for Community Affairs and Professional Education, effective **Sept. 1**. "For the past eight years, Dr. Boutwell has provided outstanding leadership for the Office of Community Affairs and the time has come to link these three very important programs in new ways to enhance our community and professional outreach. Working with the directors, managers, and various committees of these three programs, I have every confidence in his abilities to enhance the excellence of each." Dr. Boutwell joined the Medical School in 1993 as Assistant Dean for Community Affairs following a 15-year career at M. D. Anderson Cancer Center where he had served as Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and a faculty member in the Department of Behavioral Sciences. In the early 1980s, he served as Director of Public Affairs for the Texas Medical Center. A lifetime Texas Ex who graduated from UT-Austin with biology and journalism degrees, he holds master (MPH) and doctor of public health degrees (Dr.P.H.) from the UT School of Public Health at Houston. An associate professor in the Dept. of Family Practice and Community Medicine, he is the author of book chapters and professional publications in the field of cancer prevention, medical communications, and behavioral sciences. In recent years he authored a history of this medical school, *Conversation with a Medical School*.



**Dr. Bryant Boutwell**



**Sondra Ives**

## SONDRA IVES TO BE HONORED AT RETIREMENT

Faculty and staff are invited to a reception honoring **Sondra Ives**, retiring director, Continuing Medical Education and Alumni Affairs, Wed., **Aug. 29**, 4:30 - 6 p.m., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Gallery. Ives has held various positions at the Medical School since its inception. She has headed up the Alumni Affairs program since 1981 (see *Scoop* 12/10/99). Said **Dean Maximilian Buja**, "She has extensive knowledge of the school and experience working with our students, faculty, and extended family of physicians." Ives will continue to work on a part-time basis, focusing on alumni affairs programs.



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean  
Bryant Boutwell, Dr.P.H., Assistant Dean  
Colleen O'Brien, Editor  
e-mail: [Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu)  
FAX: (713) 500-0597  
E-Scoop online: <http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu>



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## WHITE COAT CEREMONY AUG. 8 USHERS IN DOCTORS-IN-TRAINING

They walk in with the white coats folded over their arms and leave with these signs of physicians-in-training on their backs. With all of the solemnity of a graduation, the White Coat Ceremony began Aug. 8 with a procession of the 205 first-year students, marching into the Edwin B. Hornberger Conference Center to the tune of "Trumpet Voluntary."

The white coat ceremony has been a tradition of the UT-Houston Medical School since 1996. The first such ceremony was held at Columbia University in 1993, as the result of a gift from The Gold Foundation. This foundation provides grants for schools to begin the tradition and still gives the Humanism in Medicine lapel pins to all of the first-year students.



At a recent retreat for first year medical students, are (l. to r.), Drs. Philip Johnson, Gil Castro, and James Ferrendelli.

As in years past, the keynote address was given by the recipient of the Faculty Award for Humanism in Medicine, which is given by the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey. The 2001 winner was **Dr. Philip C. Johnson**, professor of medicine and director of the Division of General Medicine.

"Somewhere between elementary school and now it has been on your heart to become a physician," he told the new students. "This is the first step on your journey to answer the call to become a physician."

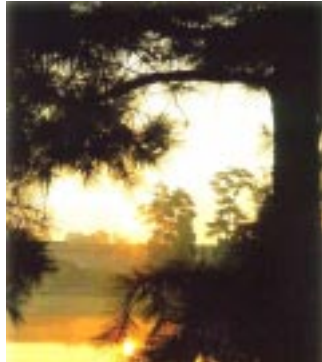
Dr. Johnson explained that he had changed a great deal since first putting on a white coat – and that patients are partly responsible for facilitating this change. "One-by-one your patients will enrich you – and that is how you will become equipped to be a physician," he told the entering class.

In addition to donning the white coats, the entering class signed an ethical pledge and was administered the Oath of Hippocrates by **Dean L. Maximilian Buja, M.D.**

- Darla Brown

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL RESEARCH RETREAT

The next research retreat is **Feb. 15 - 16**, The Woodlands Conference Center. **Dr. Donald Price**, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, will speak on the biology of Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's and other dementias affect 10 percent of the population over 65, but the rate is nearly 50 percent for those 85 and older. The 85-and-over population is the fastest-growing group in the country. Registration forms for the retreat will be mailed out in November. Registration fee includes an overnight stay and three meals. Activities include sessions on microbial signal transduction, immunobiology of disease, functional genomics, and neurodevelopment. There will be a poster session, data-blitz session, and reception. Contact **Marijane deTranlates** at [marijane.detranlates@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:marijane.detranlates@uth.tmc.edu) or 713-500-5633.



## AHRQ RELEASES NEW STATISTICS ON AMERICA'S UNINSURED

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's 2000 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), which collected nationally representative data from a sample of 25,000 people, more than 16 percent of Americans (44 million people) had no health insurance coverage in early 2000.

Collected information from the MEPS showed that young adults (ages 19-24) were at the greatest risk of being uninsured, with one-third of this group lacking health insurance. The MEPS also indicated that Hispanics accounted for one-fourth of the uninsured non-elderly population. See <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/Pubdoc/H022/HIC2000Stats.HTM>. (Source: AAMC STAT, 8-13-01).

## August Employee of the Month - Peggy Bleichroth

**Peggy Bleichroth**, executive assistant, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, our August Employee of the Month, always has a ready smile tucked away. "She's a great morale booster, not only efficient, but fun," said co-workers.

"I'm a fairly new employee here at UT; I came into the UT system three years ago,"

Peggy commented. She said her position offers a lot of diversity working with the clinical faculty, the research faculty, the residents, and the students. "Our department's research section is growing with leaps and bounds, and I'm excited to be a part of that growing process." Since taking the position, Peggy said **Dr. Catherine Ambrose**, director, Biomechanics Lab, has been a great influence. "I can look to Dr. Ambrose for advice or mentoring on anything from research, to children, to our pets." Peggy then added she has two boys, **Timothy**, who will be 14 this month, and **Jonathon**, who will be 4 next month. The family also has a 10 month-old boxer named **Alexus**.

Peggy is known to go out of her way to make other new people feel welcome, as well as to discharge her own responsibilities. She completes an assignment with the best PowerPoint graphics, text, or "whatever the job takes," said co-workers.



Employee of the Month