



Scoop

Dec. 6, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

December

10 Dr. Aaron Hsueh, Stanford University, will lecture on leucine-rich G protein-coupled receptors, noon, MSB 3.301 (green section).

UTMost Interest

Dr. Ezzat Abouleish, professor emeritus, Anesthesiology, recently won first prize in literature for *Moments with the Pen* at an American Society of Anesthesiologists convention held in Orlando, Fla.

JORDON/RAPINI RECEPTION

Dean Max Buja invites all faculty to attend a reception 4:30 – 6 p.m. Tues., **Dec. 10**, Fifth Floor Gallery, recognizing **Dr. Robert Jordon**, departing chairman, Dermatology, and welcoming **Dr. Ronald Rapini**, the new Dermatology chair at UT-Houston Medical School and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

DEAN'S COOKIE RECEPTION

The Annual Dean's Cookie Reception will be held 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thurs., **Dec. 12** in the Fifth Floor Gallery. Punch and cookies will be served. All students, residents, faculty, and staff are invited. Please join us!

"FRIENDS" TURN OUT

Medical School supporters turned out for "Friends of the Medical School" program held at the School, Wed., Nov. 20. Featured speakers were: **Dr. Larry Gilstrap** and **Dr. K. Lance Gould** addressing "Hearts and Hormones: Making Sense Out of Women's Health."



Dr. K. Lance Gould shares a laugh at the "Friends" Reception Nov. 20.

Dean Max Buja emceed the event. The next community outreach "Friends of the Medical School" program will be held in the spring. If you would like to be on the invitation list for future programs, call **Debbie Gligor** at 713-500-5002.

FERRENDELLI'S QUEST IS TO EXPAND NEUROLOGIC KNOWLEDGE



Dr. James Ferrendelli

James A. Ferrendelli, chairman and professor, Neurology, and professor of pharmacology and the Kraft W. Eidman Professor in the Medical Sciences, recently was elected president of the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) in New York City. "My personal vision for the AUPN is to enhance knowledge of both the nature of, and treatment for, neurological disorders – for medical students, residents, and for the lay public," he said. Ferrendelli, who took the position of chairman of the Medical School's Department of Neurology in 1995, succeeds Dr. William C. Mobley of Stanford University in his new role as president. The term is for two years. Founded in 1967, the AUPN consists of all the chairs of neurology, residency program directors, and pediatric residency program directors in all 136 participating institutions, from Albany Medical College to Yale University Medical School.

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IS KNOBIL DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

The Ernst Knobil Distinguished Lecturer for Wed., **Dec. 11** is **Dr. Joseph Goldstein**, a winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985. He will address "SREBPs: Activators of Lipid Synthesis and Monitors of Membrane Production," at 4 p.m., in MSB 3.001.

Goldstein is the Regental Professor and Chairman of the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He is widely known for his landmark research and discovery in the regulation of cholesterol metabolism, which have revolutionized our knowledge about the process of receptor-mediated endocytosis. Recently, his research has focused on the mechanism by which the SREBP pathway regulates cholesterol at the molecular, cellular, and whole body levels. He is a recent recipient of the Kober Medal by the Association of American Physicians.



Dr. Joseph Goldstein

"SOMETHING'S COOKING," OUR OWN UT-H RECIPE BOOK, IS A HIT

Over 2,100 sold — only a few hundred are left. The project was completely underwritten, so all proceeds are going directly into a scholarship fund for our school's medical students. Seasonal delights include Butternut Squash Soup, Stuffed Pumpkin (a delicious fruit and nut mixture baked in a pumpkin—looks great on a holiday table), Winter Pear Salad with Walnuts and Gorgonzola, John's Chili, Hoisin-Glazed Sea Bass or Salmon, Clementine Cake, and Hazelnut Torte. "Come the Revolution" is a cranberry dish sure to liven up any season. Books are available online at <www.med.uth.tmc.edu/fw&wf>, and at the Medical School Bookstore. Or, contact **Susan Byrne** at 713-729-3579; cost is \$20, plus shipping. Happy Holidays and Bon Appetit!



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



A HEIGHTENED STATE OF NORMAL IN THE AGE OF BIOTERRORISM

“You’ve got to maintain an increased index of suspicion from this day forward,” said **Richard Bradley, MD, FACEP**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, medical director, Emergency Center - Memorial Hermann Hospital; and assistant medical director, EMS - City of Houston, Fire Department. Bradley described the many elements of the National Disaster Response Network – including federal, state, and local government areas, as well as private sectors and volunteer organizations —as part of the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Series at the UT-Houston Medical School this fall. **Dr. Theresa Koehler** presented “The Anthrax Microbe and Disease,” also as a part of this series, on Nov. 18.



Dr. Richard Bradley

The lead national terrorist monitoring organization, Bradley said, is the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. “In the event of a chemical or radiological emergency in Texas, you need to call 9-1-1,” Bradley said. When a chemical or radiological emergency occurs in the local community, the first responders will be the fire department. Hazard medical personnel and the fire department will put up tents and wash people down.

For biological events, the first responders will be the people in the clinics – they’re on the front line of patient care. They’re the ones who notice symptoms such as fever or diarrhea, who sense if something is not right. “If a smallpox incident occurred,” Bradley said, “we are prepared to inoculate 1 million people in 10 days through 20 vaccination clinics, with eight vaccination stations per clinic, with 16-hour days, and 4,680 personnel.” The statewide number for health professionals only to call for biological events is 1-800-705-8868.

Besides detailed technical information, Bradley recounted at least one amusing response to bioterrorism preparedness. “She was the salt of the earth, really. Just an ordinary person. She walked into the Emergency Room at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, wearing a filter mask, yellow rubber kitchen gloves, and carrying a small white envelope with tongs. Loudly she announced, ‘I suspect anthrax.’ The neighbor who had driven her to the hospital quietly stood by. They were whisked to another area by hospital personnel, stripped, and showered down. Hospital experts later determined that her envelope specimen was harmless.” Anthrax, Bradley said, often is mistaken as a chemical when it is in fact a biological agent.

Every disaster response starts locally, Bradley said. For instance, corporate security people, including major energy, banking, and federal officials, need to be particularly aware of the importance of having a good response plan.

And a local medical response corps is being developed. **Dr. Scott Lillibridge** is directing the newly established Center for Biosecurity and Disaster Preparedness at the School of Public Health and collaborates with **Dr. S. Ward Casscells**, vice president for biotechnology at UT-Houston. Lillibridge’s wife **Kristy Murray Lillibridge**, is an assistant professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health, effective Dec. 1. Her previous position was with the Center for Disease Control in preventing infectious diseases from entering the United States.

Local communications professionals also are sharpening their emergency preparedness. Recently the Texas Medical Center Public Relations Advisory Council held a half-day workshop, led by **Jane Brust**, assistant vice president, Public Affairs, “Communicating Under Fire,” with experts including **Claire Basset**, vice president, Public Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine; **Cynthia Lawson**, executive director, University Relations, Texas A&M University; **Jean Gonsoulin**, vice president and general manager, Weber Shandwick-Houston; and **Mike Holtzman**, executive vice president, Brown Lloyd James in New York. “Practice your emergency plans, have contingency press releases and phone numbers ready, and have a dark Web site that is full of pertinent information that can be activated at a moment’s notice,” said the New York Ground Zero speaker.

A National Pharmaceutical Stockpile is being readied, Bradley said, that consists of packages, each containing 50 tons of life-saving pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, chemical interventions, as well as medical, surgical, and patient support supplies. These units can be rolled onto cargo planes and deployed to any disaster area within 12 hours.

“How will you serve? Make sure you support your community. Be in an all hazards preparedness state of mind,” Bradley said.

- C. O’Brien

TIPS FOR UNIVERSAL PREPAREDNESS

- * Have a family disaster plan
- * Have a first aid kit
- * Have a 3-day supply: of water, and food that doesn't require cooking
- * Have a battery operated radio
- * At work, have disaster contingency plans, and practice evacuations
- * If telecommunications and databases were to be wiped out, have backup systems available
- * Utilize HAM radios and their rooftop relaying broadcast potential
- * Report suspicious activities to the UT Police Dept., 713-792-2899
- * The Emergency Situation Response Plan is located at www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/admin_fin/fo/physafe/ESRP%20Rev.%205-02.doc