



Scoop

Nov. 22, 2002

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

November

26 Surgery Grand Rounds, Dr. John Potts, speaker, 7 a.m., MSB 2.135.

December

2 Brown Bag Forum with Dr. James T. Willerson, noon, MSB 3.001.

3 Dr. Gailen Marshall, "Allergies & Respiratory Disorders," noon, MSB 3.001.

Dr. Philip Reeves, MIT, speaking on stable mammalian cell line expression systems, noon, MSB 6.018D.

9 Watercolor Artist's Reception, 4 - 7 p.m., Fifth Floor Gallery. Exhibition from Nov. 27-Dec. 19.

UTMost Interest

Dr. John H. Byrne, June and Virgil Waggoner Distinguished Professor and chairman, Neurobiology and Anatomy, recently participated as a member of the site visit team for the Laboratory of Cellular and Synaptic Neurophysiology at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

CALLING ALL NOMINATIONS!

Please submit the name and reasons why you think someone you know deserves to be Employee of the Month to **Sherry Dunn**, <sherry.p.dunn@uth.tmc.edu>. Nominations have been very low this year. Challenge your area to name a deserving employee.

DEAN'S COOKIE RECEPTION

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

HERMANN'S HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Enjoy seasonal treats at Hermann Park: the Holiday Lights Cafe, specially lit Hermann Park pedal boats, and/or a walk around McGovern Lake. Hours are 6 - 10 p.m., Wed.- Sun., **Nov. 29 - Dec. 29**, closed Christmas night.

RADIOLOGIST DR. ROBINSON APPOINTED ACR FELLOW

Dr. Lawrence H. Robinson, professor, Radiology and Pediatrics at the Medical School and chief, Pediatric Radiology and Radiology at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, is a new fellow in the American College of Radiology. "The challenge in radiology is to match patient care and technical advancements with medical education and reimbursements. The ACR helps academic and private radiologists balance each of these areas," Robinson said.



Dr. Lawrence H. Robinson

Robinson, a past president of the Houston Radiological Society, has many accolades, including numerous Dean's Teaching Excellence Awards. His particular focus within pediatric radiology is skeletal trauma, bone dysplasias, and gastrointestinal disorders.

The ACR is a national nonprofit serving more than 32,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, and medical physicists. About 10 percent of its members are selected as fellows. Factors for selecting nominees include their performance as teachers and their reputations among colleges and the community.

LEADING ARTIFICIAL ORGAN PIONEERS COMPARE NOTES

Drs. Willem J. Kolff, Viking Björk, Richard DeWall, Adrian Kantrowitz, and William DeVries. What do they have in common? All are leading pioneers in the field of artificial organ development and transplantation. These physician/scientists and guests recently gathered in Houston to compare notes and celebrate the grand opening of the International Center for Medical Technologies (ICMT) during a special two-day symposium Nov. 8 and 9.

The ICMT owes its very being to one physician, **Dr. Yukihiko Nosé**, who began collecting the displayed archives in 1977 from various investigators and research facilities around the world. Dr. Nosé came to the U.S. in 1962 and worked with some of the pioneers of the artificial heart and early home dialysis devices. Appointed chairman of the Artificial Organs Department at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, he began the collection in the 1970s. Exhibits of early devices, open to the public, include early artificial hearts and assist devices. They are located on the first floor of the Cullen Pavilion of Memorial Hermann Hospital and provide an impressive look at medical technology as it has developed over the past five decades. The number of items by category includes artificial kidney (41), artificial lung (54), circulatory assist and artificial heart (89), heart valves (115), and vascular prostheses (24).

"What some call junk is a historical treasure to others," laughed Dr. Nosé during the grand opening ceremony. More than just a museum of medical technology, he added, the ICMT is truly concerned about the youth entering into the field of engineering and medical device development. This year the ICMT presented four scholastic scholarship awards and provided guided tours for youth groups, he noted.

Faculty participants in the program from UT-Houston Health Science Center and the Medical School included **Drs. James T. Willerson, Maximilian Buja, Barry D. Kahan, O. Howard Frazier, and Hazim Safi**. - B. Boutwell



The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston
Medical School

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Manager
e-mail: M.Darla.Brown@uth.tmc.edu
Colleen O'Brien, Editor
e-mail: Colleen.L.O'Brien@uth.tmc.edu
Phone: 713-500-5114; FAX: (713) 500-0597
E-Scoop online:
<http://deanweb.med.uth.tmc.edu/comm/scoop/>
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



“The target for the ground floor to be back in place is August 2003, with projects starting in January.”

*- Rives Taylor,
architecture manager*

WORK ON REBUILDING SCHOOL BEGUN; FULL RECOVERY TO TAKE YEARS

John Porretto, chief operating officer, and his staff from the Health Science Center's Office of Facilities Planning and Development and Office of Facility Operations recently let Medical School leadership know that while work on the building

has begun, it will still be a number of years before the new and improved School will be completed.

An update on the status of Tropical Storm Allison recovery was the topic of an Administrative Council meeting Nov. 13.

In order to better facilitate recovery and reconstruction, a new Project Management Office was created in July 2002 and was approved by the UT System in August. This office, with help from outside project management experts, will oversee the Medical School reconstruction. There also will be close coordination with UT System's Office of Facilities, Planning and Construction (OFPC).

Funding for the recovery is critically dependent upon the ongoing negotiations with private insurance companies and the federal government, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The first project, which must be completed before further reconstruction can begin, is the creation of the hydrostatic wall around the Medical School Building. The construction of the wall started a month ago and is to be completed before the next hurricane season begins, said **Rives Taylor**, architecture manager. “This project must first be implemented and approved before any other projects can move forward,” he explained.

The wall will extend the perimeter of the building and provide a concrete, granite, and aquarium glass barrier to future flooding while at the same time improve the look of the building and its entrances. Once the southeast corner is completed, the relocated imaging center can be built; this will be done on a fast track.



The new hydrostatic wall between the JFB building and the Medical School takes shape.

The loading dock and Ross Sterling also will be fortified to withstand massive amounts of water. Retractable gates for Ross Sterling are no longer in the plans.

The second project to be started is creating the new vivarium, which will be built out of harm's way in the building's penthouse and above. UT System's OFPC will be running this project, which will result in two-and-a-half floors of animal space. If this plan is approved by FEMA in January, it will provide a much more modern space and designated elevators for animal transport. Taylor would not give an estimated time of completion on this project except to say it would take more than a year or two to complete.

The target for the ground floor to be back in place is August 2003, with projects starting in January, Taylor said. The mechanical room and the imaging center will be the first projects to begin on the ground floor. Work on the basement would likely not begin until the ground floor is complete.

When asked why other institutions, such as Baylor College of Medicine and Memorial Hermann Hospital, are already back to normal following the storm, **Brian Yeoman**, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities Planning and Development, said it is because they were not as dependent on FEMA as we are because they had significant insurance coverage.

“We had a \$50 million insurance policy and a \$100 million loss. Plus, we want to come back better than we were before,” he explained.

The School has received \$56 million in insurance money, but more money is anticipated as negotiations with the insurance company are winding down, **Duane Heuer**, construction and planning accountant, said. “We've only collected \$464,000 from FEMA so far, but there is an \$8 million check in the mail,” he added.

Between insurance coverage and FEMA money, the School will be short about \$35 million, which is the money designated to meet the FEMA requirement for local matching money and for enhancements, such as small classrooms and a clinical skills lab in the basement and an improved imaging center. “The \$35 million in matching and enhancement funds is critical for the School,” **Dean Max Buja** said.

Porretto said the request of \$35 million from the Legislature is a priority for the UT System for this legislative session.

Regarding the indoor air quality project, \$8 million more is anticipated to allow work to continue in the lab areas. Funds for the offices part of the project—\$6 million—have not yet been identified.

- D. Brown

- photos by C. O'Brien



Completion of the hydrostatic wall is a top priority.