



# Scoop

May 28, 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### May

**30 Commencement**, 1 p.m., Assembly Hall, George R. Brown Convention Center.

**31 UT Fitness Summer Membership Special**, last day. 15 percent discount. Call 713-500-5044.

### June

**4 Excellence in Education Graduation**, Neurology Residents and Fellows graduation, noon, Fifth Floor Gallery.

**9 TOWN HALL MEETING**, noon, MSB 3.001. Hosted by Interim Dean **Stanley Schultz**. Anonymous questions can be submitted via e-mail to UCSC chair <Tiffany.I.Sheffield@uth.tmc.edu>. Lunch to the first 100 attendees.

## UTMost Interest

**Virginia Moyer**, professor, Pediatrics, recently was named to the United States Preventive Services Task Force and to the editorial board of the largest pediatric journal, *Pediatrics*.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED



**Tameralee Sennet** happily receives her \$1,000 scholarship.

Scholarship winners of employees' children announced at the University Classified Staff Council Employee Workshop May 21, each receiving \$1,000, were: **Tameralee Sennet**, parent **Debra Sennet**, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; **Leah Yieh**, parent **Jone-Ing Lin**, SPH; **Amy McGauhey**, parent **Jerry McGauhey**, Office of the Registrar; **Derek Klepac**, parent **Dan Klepac**, Radiology; **Prescott DeWayne Nunley**, parent **Monique Nunley**, LBJ-Dept. of Surgery; **Brittany Stevens**, parent **Courtney Stevens**, Internal Medicine.

## MILEWICZ APPOINTED TO ELAM AND TO ENDOWED CHAIR

**Dr. Dianna Milewicz** wears many hats: a professor; a Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist; vice chairman, Internal Medicine; director, Division of Medical Genetics; and director, the MD/PhD program. She now has two more feathers to add — a national leadership role and holder of an endowed chair.



**Dr. Stanley Schultz congratulates Dr. Dianna Milewicz.**

She recently was elected a fellow of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program. Established in 1995, the program offers approximately 45 recipients annually an opportunity to network with nationally recognized academic women leaders, hone administrative skills, and have greater visibility within and beyond the recipient's institution. **Drs. Katherine Loveland, Patricia Butler, Margaret Uthman, and Paula O'Neill** of the Dental Branch, are ELAM alumnae. Said Milewicz, "It's a real honor. You end up with a national network of academic women in powerful places; you're more in tune with what's going on at the national level."

Milewicz also is the new holder of the President George Bush, Sr. Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine. She was nominated by Interim Dean **Stanley Schultz**. "Dr. Schultz has been incredibly supportive," she said.

Milewicz is in demand as a speaker on the topics of her research, having recently addressed a crowd of 500-600 major donors at the annual Chancellor's Council meeting April 30 in Austin, hosted by **Dr. Kenneth Shine**, executive vice chancellor for health affairs for the UT System. "I don't think the public is aware of the dangers of aortic aneurysms. This is a disease that kills people," she said. To illustrate her point, Milewicz spoke of a case a year ago when actor John Ritter, who was 54, suffered an acute aortic dissection, which is an unrecognized and undetected flaw in the aorta. "We have worked with journalists at *The Wall Street Journal* to publish a series of articles on aneurysms to increase awareness. We want people to know that there is a genetic component that can be inherited in families. Hopefully that message is getting across," she said.

"My research program is really focusing primarily on vascular diseases to understand the genetic basis of aortic aneurysms and dissections," Milewicz continued. "We work closely with **Dr. Hazim Safi** and the cardiovascular surgeons, along with the neurosurgeons to enroll patients in our studies. In addition, we've expanded our efforts to work with **Dr. James Grotta** on stroke patients."

Milewicz said her team is in the process of collecting DNA and serum samples from most of the vascular disease patients. These banking studies are being funded by TexGen along with support from the National Institutes of Health. Milewicz added that her team continues to work with rheumatologists on scleroderma. In addition, she is involved with the Clinical Research Center (CRC) and directs the CRC DNA sequencing and Genotyping Core Laboratory. "We continue to provide the genetic infrastructure for the clinicians doing genetically oriented research on their patient populations," she said.

- C. O'Brien



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## Celebrating Teaching Excellence

**THE JOHN FREEMAN FACULTY TEACHING AWARD - DR. KENT HECK**

For the second time in three years, **Kent Heck, M.D.**, has been named the recipient of the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award. The winners are selected each year by the senior class to recognize the Medical School's outstanding basic science faculty member.



Dr. Kent Heck

When the graduating class was in its second year of medical school, Heck was the director of the second-year pathology course. Heck now is the director of autopsy service at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and a neuropathologist in Gulf Coast Pathology Associates there. Even though he is no longer employed by the Medical School, he has maintained a teaching role here as a clinical assistant professor in the Medical School's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

"Teaching allows me to keep up and stay current with my areas of expertise, and I've always enjoyed working with students and lecturing," he said. "Teaching has always been fun, and when it stops being fun, I'll stop doing it."

The recipient of this award, which is made possible by a gift from the late Freeman, must exemplify enthusiasm and drive toward effective teaching, have a personal interest in students' problems and their educational goals, and set an example that serves as a high standard for students.

Heck said he is "surprised and delighted" about winning the award again.

Heck received his medical degree from Tulane University and came on board as a faculty member at the Medical School in 1994. He received the Residents' Faculty Teaching Award in 1994 and the Dean's Teaching Excellence Award in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Winners of the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award since 1990 include: **Drs. Norman Weisbrodt** (2003), **Kent Heck** (2002), **Margaret O. Uthman** (2001, 1999, 1997), **Barry Van Winkle** (2000, 1998), **Marsha L. Eigenbrodt** (1996), **Ron C. Philo** (1995), **Harley D. Sybers** (1994, 1992, 1990), **Frank W. Booth** (1993), and **Karmen L. Schmidt** (1991).

- D. Brown

## CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM SOLICITING PILOT PROJECT APPLICATIONS

The UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center SPORE in Melanoma and The UT M. D. Anderson Melanoma and Skin Cancer Research Program are seeking applications for Melanoma Developmental Project Awards. Deadline for submission is 5 p.m., Thurs., **July 1**. Call Alcena Doxley, administrator, Bioimmunotherapy, 713-792-2635 for information.

## DOCTOR'S ORCHESTRA CONCERT COMING UP

Music conductor **Libi Lebel** will once again lead the Doctors Orchestra of Houston 2 p.m., Sun., **June 6**, at Cullen Theater, Wortham Center. Pip Clarke is the guest violinist. Works by Bruch, "Scottish Fantasie," and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5" will be featured. Call 832-202-2882

for more information. Tickets at the box office or on-line at <<http://www.DoctorsorchestraHouston.org>>.



## UTHSCH-LBJ'S TRANSITIONAL YEAR RESIDENCY WINS 5-YR. ACCREDITATION

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Residency Review Committee (RRC) accredits residency programs in their specialties, affecting 100,000 residents nationwide.



Dr. Michael Bungo

The RRC recently granted five-year accreditation to the Transitional Year Residency Program here.

"I am told that this is the first time in the history of the program that any more than three years has been granted," said **Dr. Michael W. Bungo**, associate dean, Harris County Programs and chief of staff, LBJ Hospital. The Transitional Year Residency Program, Bungo said, is a one-year PGY1 program that bridges the training between medical school and certain residency programs — such as radiology, anesthesiology, dermatology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, radiation, oncology, and ophthalmology — or serves as an additional year of general training while the candidates solidifies his or her career goals.

Two years ago when Bungo took over the position of Transitional Year Residency Program Director, the area had just received a letter from the RRC stating their "intent to place on probation." The area was site reviewed in November 2003, and on March 30, 2004, received notification that the UT Transitional Year Residency had a full five-year accreditation.

The UT Houston Transitional Year Residency is "sponsored" by the core clinical residency programs at UT in Surgery, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Ob-Gyn. In addition, the Departments of Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Pathology, and Radiology play key roles on an advisory committee.

"The hard work, academic strength, and dedication to excellence that these departments and their faculty have provided have allowed the program to attain this certification. In addition, **Mary Frances Fabrizio** and **Tammy Granberry** have been instrumental in their day-to-day administration of the program and preparation for the site visit," Bungo added.