



Scoop

Dec. 16, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

December

19 "From Structure to Function: the Ammonia Channel AmtB is not a Simple Pore" presented by Dr. Lei Zheng (Paul Scherrer Institut). 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., MSB 2.135.

23 End of 20 percent off sales at Medical School, Dental Branch, and School of Nursing Bookstores.

January 2006

15 Bridging Grant and Just Missed Grant Applications Due; send to Kimberly.J.Campbell@uth.tmc.edu.

UTMost Interest

Philip Orlander, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, was quoted in the Nov. 8 issue of *The New York Times* about the diagnosis and treatment of a failing thyroid.

C.Y. Joseph Chang, M.D., professor and chair of otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, was quoted in the Nov. 10 issue of the *Houston Chronicle* about tinnitus, hearing sounds in the absence of an external source.

Roy Prichard, senior graphic designer for the Medical School, was featured in the November 2005 issue of the *AAMC Reporter* about his second job as a vocalist and director of the Houston Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Medical School's Department of Surgery is sponsoring a scholarship fund and gala to honor the legendary trauma surgeon **James "Red" Duke, M.D.** The fund will be used to endow the James "Red" Duke, Jr. M.D. Scholarship Fund that will benefit medical students and surgical residents who are pursuing research training in trauma.

The gala will be Jan. 19, 2006, at The Houstonian, 111 North Post Oak Lane. Cocktail hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a dinner and program. Individual tickets are \$250, and a table of 10 is \$2,500. For donating opportunities and ticket information, contact **Mickey Clouser** at 713.500.7205.

MILEWICZ HONORED WITH CSW MENTORING AWARD

Dianna Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D., is known locally, nationally, and internationally for her groundbreaking cardiovascular research that seeks to understand the genetic basis of aortic aneurysms and dissections, conditions that can lead to sudden death due to aortic rupture. In her roles as professor and director of the Division of Medical Genetics, she is training the next generation of scientists and is increasing awareness about the importance of studying this disease.

The Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) chose to honor her not only for her research but also for her mentoring skills of young scientists. Milewicz received the Distinguished Professional Woman Award at the committee's annual awards banquet Dec. 7 at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

Hariyadarshi Pannu, Ph.D., nominated Milewicz for the award and described her as someone who always taught her "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield" in her research endeavors and career. "Dianna Milewicz is much more than her excellent CV suggests," Pannu said.

UT Health Science Center President **James Willerson, M.D.**, recruited Milewicz in 1991. She was named the 2001 recipient of the Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award for her outstanding clinical and translational research and for her mentorship of physician scientists. In *(Cont'd. on back)*



Dr. Dianna Milewicz (center) stands with CSW Chair Kathy Rodgers (left) and Dr. Hariyadarshi Pannu.

SANDOVAL RECEIVES OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD

Always pleasant, well respected, and liked by all were words used to describe the Medical School's final Outstanding Employee of the Quarter – **Robert Sandoval**. Sandoval started working for the Medical School in 1987 as a graphic designer. Then, in 2000, he switched gears. He now works for the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics as the coordinator of the LUMINA study for **Dr. John Reveille**, division director and the George S. Bruce, Jr. Professor in Arthritis & Other Rheumatic Diseases.



Robert Sandoval

LUMINA (LUpus in MInority populations: NAture vs. nurture) has been going on for 12 years and is recognized as a one-of-a-kind study of lupus by the National Institutes of Health, Sandoval said. Sandoval is responsible for contacting and following up with 233 patients in the study, including helping them fill out questionnaires and forms.

"Robert shows great compassion for the individuals enrolled in the LUMINA study," his nominators said. "He calls those who he knows have been ill recently or suffered a loss in their families. He has been known to take flowers to study patients who are hospitalized."

Because he is fluent in Spanish, Sandoval is able to communicate with study participants who do not speak English. "We see a lot of Hispanic patients who do not speak English, so that's

(Cont'd. on back)



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*A part of The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston*



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Editor's Note: Dean Stanley Schultz wrote the following message before he was hospitalized. He continues to make progress following his surgery at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

Dean's Holiday Message

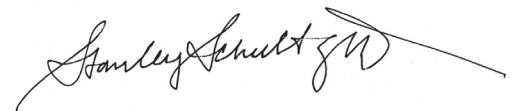
Compassion in action might be a good theme for the year now coming to a close. Who will ever forget the names Katrina and Rita? Who will ever forget the heart-wrenching pictures of tragedy and need that blazed night after night on TV? Who will ever forget the fear and paralysis that gripped many Houstonians as Rita approached and the sigh of relief when it spared us its wrath? And, who will ever forget the compassion, professionalism, heroism, and energy displayed by so many of our faculty, staff, students, family members, friends, and acquaintances in response to cries for help from strangers in need?

I certainly never will. On the contrary, I will forever treasure those memories as a reaffirmation of the basic goodness of others.

I once again applaud each of you for your individual and collective compassion and selflessness that assisted thousands of storm victims from New Orleans and beyond in their most desperate time of need. As I've said many times before, I could not be prouder of this school and our family of faculty, staff, and students who showed a nation, and indeed, the civilized world, what care and compassion for others is all about. We truly pulled together in our unique calling as health-care professionals.

On a lighter note, 2005 also brought to mind another natural disaster, namely Tropical Storm Allison that visited us in June 2001 and wrought havoc upon our infrastructure – but not upon our spirit or our ability to execute our mission. This year we celebrated the restoration and rejuvenation of the Medical School Building and the beautiful re-landscaping of the Webber and Fannin Plazas. And, a new six-story research and animal care facility is springing out of the ground where the old Freeman Building once stood.

The holiday season is a time to count our blessings and to be grateful for all we have; and, this year, we have much to be grateful for. Along with my wife, Harriet, I wish each of you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday and a happy and healthy 2006.



Employee award, cont'd.

where my translation skills come in," he said.

Sandoval's design background also has come in handy with rheumatology faculty members. "Since he is well schooled in the graphic arts, he can be depended upon to format posters for rheumatology faculty attending conferences," his nominators said. "For this year's American College of Rheumatology annual meeting, Robert formatted and finished seven posters."

Sandoval's interests outside of work revolve around Mardi Gras. He is a member of the Krewe of Mid City, which is the fifth oldest continuously parading organization of the New Orleans Mardi Gras season. He has a daughter, Chris, and a son, Vincent, who both live in Round Rock, Texas. He has two grandchildren, Melissa, 14, and Daniel, 12.

"I really enjoy what I do," Sandoval said. "I enjoy the patients, and I hope in some small way I can contribute to them feeling a little bit better."

-C. Webb

NOTE: Due to the upcoming holidays, there will be no Scoop Dec. 23 or 30.

Issues resume Jan. 6, 2006.

Milewicz award, cont'd.

2004, she was named the holder of the President George Bush Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine.

Milewicz didn't get where she is today without setting some rules. During her acceptance speech at the awards banquet, she shared the rules that have guided her along the way.

"Set goals and balance everything you need to get done to reach these goals," she said. "Set your priorities based on what you are passionate about." Her priorities are her family, research, and mentoring.

"Surround yourself with people who have the same passions as yours," she continued. "When entering the unknown, collaborate with someone."

Her final rule was to be lucky. "These are some of the very simple rules that I've used to sort of guide my career," she said, adding that she hopes others might also find them useful when they mentor and support junior colleagues.

Lu Ann Aday, Ph.D., Karen Adler Storthz, Ph.D., and Denise Carpenter also were honored at the event and received the Faculty, Administrative & Professional, and Classified Staff Mentoring Awards, respectively.

-C. Webb

