



Scoop

Feb. 25, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

February

25 Go Texan Day, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ground floor, Medical School. Judging at 12:30 p.m., Best Dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl Contest. Lunch served, \$4. Sponsored by Medical School's Employee Relations Committee.

March

4,5 Research Retreat for Faculty, 8:30 a.m.- 7 p.m., Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Millicent Goldschmidt, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, received a lifetime achievement award from the Texas branch of the American Society for Microbiology. The Texas branch will select a microbiologist annually to give a Goldschmidt Lecture, based on an individual who promotes the study and future of microbiology.



achievement award from the Texas branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

CASSELLS AND MADJID ADDRESS NATURAL DISASTERS

One of the biggest concerns in the aftermath of a natural disaster is how to maintain and promote good hygiene. "When I went to assist the relief effort in Phuket, the Padong Hospital, and the Kanala refugee camp in Thailand, we broadcast the message repeatedly to use clean water and soap," said **Dr. S. Ward Casscells**, at a Cardiology Grand Rounds. "As relief workers, our job was to: rescue, resuscitate, bring relief, rehabilitate, and reconstruct. That translated into bringing blankets, food, clean water; digging latrines; giving vitamin A to children; providing prosthetic limbs, mosquito netting, mosquito sprays, nutritious food; reducing overcrowding; and pumping cash into the economy."

As a result of the 9-magnitude earthquake that triggered massive tsunamis in southern and southeast Asia Dec. 26, Thai people had lost their jobs, their boats, and their shops, Casscells related. A lot of psychological rehabilitation is now needed. "I met many children, particularly in the refugee camps, who had lost their parents," Casscells said. "And I met many parents who had lost a child. You just don't know what to say."

In Padong today, there are no children under 6 years of age, Casscells said. Almost all of them had been on the beach that day – attracted by enormous fish left flopping on the sand after the first wave receded, and they were swept away by a succession of fast and powerful waves.

But not everyone perished on the beach. An 11-year-old girl from England saved about 120 lives on the beach that day by yelling "Run. Tsunami coming!"

(Cont'd. on back)



A Thai relief worker aids a European child.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE HITOSHI NIKAIKIDOH AWARD

The family of Hitoshi Nikaidoh has established an endowed award to honor the memory of this extraordinary young man who died just a few months following graduation in 2003 from the Medical School.

Hitoshi himself was chosen by his classmates to receive the Gold-Headed Cane Award at graduation.

The intent of the Nikaidohs is to honor a graduating student who represents the highest ideals of the physician: honor, integrity, selflessness, and dedication to the welfare of the patient.

The Nikaidoh Awardee will be selected by the Student Evaluation and Promotions Committee from candidates nominated by the faculty.

Faculty are invited to nominate a student in this graduating class who has demonstrated the qualities of the ideal physician at this initial phase of their clinical training. Please support the nomination with a full explanation.

Please submit nominations, either on paper to Student Affairs, MSB G.400, or via e-mail to <Margaret.C.McNeese@uth.tmc.edu> by **March 18**.

SAYING "YES" TO ROBOTICS



High school students from YES College Preparatory School Southeast visit **Dr. Eyal Porat's** daVinci robotics lab to learn how medicine employs robotic technology. The students, who are members of their school's competitive robotics club, first received a welcome and introduction to the Medical School by **Dean Stanley Schultz**. The two groups were brought together by the Medical School's Office of Development and Alumni Affairs on the suggestion of a UT Health Science Center Development Board member.



THE UNIVERSITY
of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL
AT HOUSTON

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

Stanley Schultz, M.D., Dean
Darla Brown, Director
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://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm
Produced weekly by the Office of Community Affairs and Public Education



NATURAL DISASTERS DISCUSSED, CONT'D.

It also made a big impression on the Thai people, Casscells said, when their prime minister, **Thaksin Shinawatra**, appeared on the beach in southern Thailand within six hours of the disaster, pulling people out of the surf. Within 24 hours, 50,000 Thai people were on the scene assisting others.

“This is just a snapshot, of course, of the enormous effort now under way to bring the country back to wholeness,” Casscells said. “I believe the inordinate cooperation among the people, the government, and the visiting aid societies were due to the very peaceful nature of the Thai people themselves and to their emphasis on teamwork.”

In addition to Tsunami relief, recent outbreaks of bird flu in Thailand and Vietnam were addressed by **Dr. Mohammed Madjid**, Internal Medicine/Cardiology, an internationally respected leader in identifying influenza as a trigger for heart attacks, strokes, and sudden cardiac death.

“We are overdue for a flu pandemic, particularly a bird flu pandemic. The last flu pandemic was 34 years ago; it hospitalized 1-2.3 million people; and there were 280-650,000 deaths,” he said.

Madjid indicated that the bird flu virus is particularly virulent because it can travel to the brain, liver, “everywhere.” “It is a very important trigger of heart attacks,” he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and the American Heart Association soon will publish guidelines for addressing the role of emerging infections in cardiovascular diseases.

Physicians need to be ready to diagnose bird flu when a patient presents with pneumonia, or heart disease, rather than the flu, the speaker indicated. “The question is not if, but when, we are going to have a pandemic,” Madjid said.

A streaming video of Casscells’ and Madjid’s talks can be seen at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/schools/video/streamvideo/ms/cd/cardgrnd.html>.

- C. O'Brien

FREE ANNUAL BRAIN FORUM MARCH 19

The 10th Annual Public Forum for Brain Awareness Week is showcasing “The Aging Brain.” Moderated by **Dr. ‘Red’ Duke** 10:30 a.m. to noon Sat., **March 19**, in the Medical School’s Lecture Hall 3.001, this free forum is hosted by the Neuroscience Research Center.

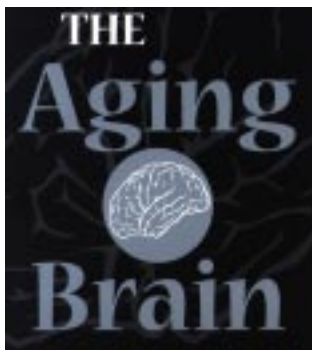
A panel discussion will include: **Joshua Breier, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Neurology, addressing “Alzheimer’s Disease, Dementia and the Decline of Mental Abilities;” **James E. Ferrendelli, M.D.**, professor and chair, Neurology, speaking on “Natural Aging Brain Including Dementia, Stroke, Parkinson’s Disease and Epilepsy;” and **Robert Guynn, M.D.**, professor and chair, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, talking about “Psychiatric Disorders in the Elderly.”

Disabled visitors, or those who have difficulty walking, should inquire about assistance when registering.

Call **Laura Ross** at 713-500-5538.

Brain Night, a children’s event, will be held Thurs., **March 24**.

For more information on these activities, visit http://nba.uth.tmc.edu/nrc/baw/2005_public_forum.htm.



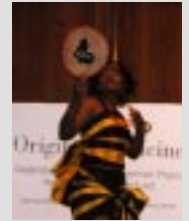
**BLACK HERITAGE CELEBRATION
FEATURES MUSIC, ART**

The Medical School’s chapter of the Student National Medical Association presented “The Original Medicine Man - A Celebration of African and African American Influence in the History of Medicine,” last week in the Fifth Floor Gallery.

Black heritage was showcased with an array of music and musicians, photos, paintings, archeological finds, books, and cuisine.



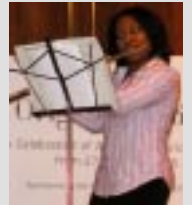
Latricia Thompson, MS IV, sang some acappella tunes.



Omonele Ohen, MS III, performed a Yoruba dance.



A University of Houston Good News Gospel Choir pianist pumped up the volume.



Flautist Brandi Compton, MS I, rendered some classical compositions.



New brackets grace the Medical School’s ground floor elevator banks.

**NEW GUIDELINES,
NEW BRACKETS
FOR GROUND
FLOOR POSTINGS**

Horizontal brackets have been mounted near the Medical School’s ground floor elevators, to facilitate posting notices in a crisp and attractive manner.

Please make use of them for your posting needs.

Priorities for posting unmounted fliers, 8 1/2 x 11, and 11 x 14, on the Medical School’s ground floor include the following:

- Medical School-sponsored lectures, events, and/or notices;
- Department-sponsored lectures, and/or events;
- Health science center-sponsored lectures, events, and/or notices.

Personal and vendor ads may be posted only on student bulletin boards outside MSB 1.006 and in main stairwell bulletin boards on floors 1 and 2.

Use of bulletin boards in elevators must be approved by the Office of Finance and Administration.

Posting departments are responsible for the timely removal of fliers.

Graphic Communications, MSB G.500, 713-500-5530, can help with poster designs and printing needs.