



Scoop

Nov. 18, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

November

30 Ernst Knobil Distinguished Lecture with Jeffrey Friedman, M.D., Ph.D. 4 p.m., MSB 3.001.

December

1-3 Scholarship Holiday Book Fair. Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 3003 Holcombe Blvd.

3 Neuroscience Poster Session. 10 a.m.-noon, MSB Leather Lounge.

14 Dean's Holiday Reception. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. MSB Leather Lounge. Dean Schultz invites the Medical School Community to celebrate the holidays with cookies and punch!

UT SCHOOLS SELECTED AS SITES FOR SUMMER PROGRAM

The University of Texas Medical School and Dental Branch at Houston are part of 12 medical and dental schools that have been selected to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Summer Medical and Dental Education Program, an enrichment program for freshman and sophomore college students interested in pursuing careers in medicine and dentistry. The Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Dental Education Association administer the program, which seeks to create a more diverse medical and dental workforce.

"The University of Texas Dental Branch is pleased that our collaborative partnership with the Medical School and San Jacinto College Southeast has resulted in our being awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to create a Summer Medical and Dental Education Program," said **Dr. Paula O'Neill**, principal investigator for the grant and associate dean for educational research and professional development at the Dental Branch. "This grant will allow us to move forward our shared mission to assist rising freshman and sophomore students in enhancing their knowledge, skills, and attitudes to make them more competitive and improve their chances of becoming successful applicants to either a medical or dental school of their choice."

Project directors include **Dr. Andrew Harper**, assistant dean for educational programs at the Medical School and **Dr. Phil Pierpont**, associate dean for student and alumni affairs at the Dental Branch.

Other institutions funded through the grant include: Case Western Reserve University Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine; Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons
(Cont'd. on back)

NEW PROCUREMENT PROCESS GOING MEDICAL SCHOOL-WIDE

What started as a pilot program at the Medical School will soon be school-wide – thanks to a successful outcome by the procurement team.

The need for a new approach to processing payments and purchasing was addressed due to diversity and inconsistency across departments. "The process in the past was each individual department was responsible for all procurement activities from requisition, sending out a purchase order, and working with the accounts payable team to resolve payment issues," said **Kevin Armstrong**, eProcurement contracts administrator.

"Skill levels varied... the number of transactions varied," added **Jerry Fuller**, assistant vice president of procurement. "Everything was very diverse in how we approached procurement."

The Department of Internal Medicine was going through reorganization, and that served as an opportunity for Armstrong and Fuller to test the new model for procurement. With 11 divisions in the department and about 25 buyers, there was little or no consistency in the process.

"The challenge was some divisions were very busy from a supply, purchasing, and processing perspective compared to several divisions with small transaction volumes that struggled with it because it wasn't routine," Armstrong noted. "We focused it down to a core team of three buyers."

"That function was consolidated; it doesn't mean that people lost their jobs," Fuller explained. Armstrong and Fuller also developed performance measures, so they could test the model's ef-

(Cont'd. on back)



Dean Stanley Schultz hosted a Faculty Promotion Dinner honoring newly promoted and tenured faculty Oct. 28 at the Rice University Faculty Club. Three newly promoted faculty spoke, representing the three missions of the Medical School – Charles Cox Jr., M.D., Surgery; Fabrizia Faustinella, M.D., Ph.D., Internal Medicine; and Theresa Koehler, Ph.D., Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

UTMost Interest

John Teichgraber, M.D., Surgery, and co-authors won the Award for Best Member Paper for "Pre-surgical Nasoalveolar Molding (PNAM) Therapy for the Treatment of Bilateral Cleft Lip and Palate" at the annual meeting of the Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons Oct. 21-23 in San Antonio.

Stanley Reiser, M.D., MPA, Ph.D., Humanities, was quoted in the Nov. 1 issue of *The New York Times* about technology and the physician-patient relationship.



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



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E-Scoop online:
http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm
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Study Examines Residents' Ability to Screen for Domestic Violence

Because so little about domestic violence is introduced into a medical resident's curriculum, many are unprepared to screen for and deal with issues of violence among their patients. **Dr. Laura Benjamins**, clinical research fellow, hopes to change that by designing a domestic violence curriculum for residents in primary care programs at the Medical School.

Benjamins' study, "Assessing Residents' Readiness to Screen for Domestic Violence," is the focus of her dual fellowship appointment in adolescent medicine (Department of Pediatrics) and joint primary care (Department of Family and Community Medicine). Her faculty mentors are **Dr. William Risser** and **Linda Nieman**. Both fellowships require a master's degree in public health, which she is currently pursuing at the UT School of Public Health.



Laura Benjamins

"Part of what I'm looking at with this project is finding out more about what's in the curriculum of various residency programs at UT and how much the residents feel prepared to ask their patients about issues of violence," she said.

Her interest in domestic violence started in college when she worked at shelters for abused women, and it extended to her medical school training at Wayne State University, where she found that few classes existed about domestic violence. "When I started, we had very little in our curriculum on issues of violence," Benjamins said. "There was a real interest among the student body to get more domestic violence education into the curriculum."

Benjamins noted that students organized a weeklong awareness event about domestic violence, which turned into an annual event. In addition, students and faculty formed a committee to design a four-year domestic violence curriculum.

In Benjamins' study, domestic violence is defined as a pattern of coercive behavior toward an intimate partner, roommate, or family member (including children, parents, and elders) which can include physical, sexual, economic, emotional, or psychological abuse.

Part of the study includes a survey for residents specializing in internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and emergency medicine that will address their readiness and decision to screen for domestic violence. "I want to see if there are any differences across the specialties and any issues that are specific to that specialty, so that, eventually, we can design a curriculum for the different residencies," she said.

From some pilot tests of the survey, Benjamins already found differences. "Pediatricians think differently about domestic violence than a family practitioner," she said. "Pediatricians may only think of domestic violence between a husband and wife. They often don't screen their patient – the child – for issues of violence."

Benjamins said she feels awareness and education are key to a resident's understanding about the importance of screening for domestic violence. "A lot of times, people who do experience violence say they would tell their doctor if they were asked," she said. "A lot of times, we just don't ask."

-C. Webb

NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Scoop will not publish Nov. 25. Issues resume Dec. 2.

Committee on the Status of Women Awards Banquet

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Edwin Hornberger Conference Center

5:30 p.m. – Reception

6 p.m. – Dinner and Awards

The recipient of the Distinguished Professional Woman Award is **Dr. Dianna Milewicz**, professor and director of the Division of Medical Genetics and holder of the President George H. W. Bush Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine at the Medical School.

The President's Award for Mentoring Women for faculty, classified, and administrative and professional staff also will be awarded.

Tickets are \$25. Contact **Chanda Kerlegon** at 713.500.3063 or Chanda.M.Kerlegon@uth.tmc.edu.

Summer program, cont'd.

and School of Dental & Oral Surgery; David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and UCLA School of Dentistry; Duke University School of Medicine; Howard University Colleges of Dentistry and Medicine; UMDNJ New Jersey Medical and Dental Schools; University of Louisville Schools of Medicine and Dentistry; University of Nebraska Medical Center, Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry; University of Virginia School of Medicine; University of Washington Schools of Medicine and Dentistry; and Yale School of Medicine.

Program sites will accept up to 80 potential medical and dental students each summer and will receive \$300,000 annually for four years, in addition to matching financial support from their own institutions.

Source: AAMC

Procurement, cont'd.

fectiveness. "After six months, the performance had improved," Fuller said.

Because of the procurement model's success in Internal Medicine, Armstrong and Fuller began meeting with department chairs to discuss the plan, and eventually, they presented it to the Medical School's Administrative Council, Faculty Senate, and Research Committee. The committees responded favorably in support of the new procurement process going campus-wide. Armstrong and Fuller anticipate having all departments onboard by the end of December. So far, there are 19 of 22 departments already onboard.

"Each department has some unique needs that we're trying to address, but essentially, we've moved all the purchasing transaction volume down to a team of 12 for the whole school," Armstrong said.

"We looked at payment processing as a unique activity and hired people who were solely dedicated to processing payment vouchers," Fuller added. "The goal is getting goods and services in a timely manner and paying suppliers in a timely manner."

Armstrong said the benefits of the new system are consistency, better compliance with HOOP, and faster payment.

After the departments have been up and running in the new system for at least six months, Armstrong and Fuller want to send a customer service survey. "From the customer service survey, we'll take the positive criticisms and opportunities for improvement, and we'll develop our next six-month strategy based on the feedback we get," Armstrong said.

"The whole model of having people involved in the process on a continuing basis has been important to us in the past and will be important to us in the future," Fuller added.

-C. Webb