



Scoop

Sept. 30, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

October

- 3 New Faculty Orientation Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., MSB 5th Floor Gallery. R.S.V.P. to Dawn Alvarado (713-500-5103).
- 7 Founders' Fun Fest.** 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hornberger Conference Center.
- 10 Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response / Dr. Theresa Koehler.** Noon - 1 p.m., MSB B.625.
- 11 MSRDP Board Meeting.** 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., MSB 2.103. All members invited to attend.
- 11 Elena Marks, J.D., M.P.H., to speak on Lessons Learned: Houston's Hurricane Relief Efforts.** 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science.

IFC Announces New At-Large Reps

The results are in from the Interfaculty Council (IFC) election for the Medical School At-Large representatives. The new members are **Drs. Pamela Berens, Anil Kulkarni, Emily Robinson, and Richard Smalling.** **Drs. Sandra Oldham and Bela Patel** will continue their terms as At-Large members, and **Drs. Manju Monga and Susan Ramin** will serve as alternates in the event any of the six Medical School representatives are unable to continue their terms this year.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Matt Lewin was quoted in the Sept. 13 issue of *The New York Times* about a fossil hunting expedition in the Gobi Desert, Mongolia. Lewin is a 1999 graduate of the Medical School's M.D./Ph.D. program who completed his postdoctoral thesis research in Dr. Edgar Walters' lab. He now splits his time between the emergency medicine departments of Stanford University and the University of California at San Francisco and holds clinical instructor positions in both. His research interests include infectious disease and pain physiology.



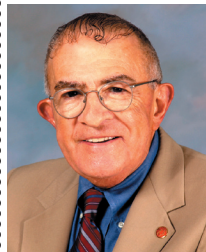
A LETTER FROM DEAN SCHULTZ TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL FAMILY

To say the least, it has been a very, very eventful September!

While we were, gratefully, spared the direct effects of Hurricane Katrina, many members of the Medical School family were, and will continue to be, affected by the consequences of that disaster.

Our medical clinic established at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which provided essential services to many of those uprooted by Hurricane Katrina, closed last week. Now, Tulane medical students and residents are about to join us. As a community that has experienced the difficulties of an earlier flood, we are pleased to be in a position where we can offer a helping hand to our displaced colleagues from Tulane.

Fortunately, we and our guests from Tulane were spared the full wrath of Hurricane Rita. I've given much thought as to how we should recognize the faculty, staff, residents, and students of the Medical School and the UT Physicians who volunteered their time and talents at the Brown clinic. A small gift? A letter of commendation to their supervisors? Nothing seemed appropriate, especially since I know we'd risk overlooking lots of people, and that would be worse than thanking some.



Dean Schultz

Thus, my thank you is this letter.

Some of you registered patients, credentialed providers, brought family members together, and even read bedtime stories to children. Others copied patient records, retrieved lab results, and scheduled volunteers. Many took care of patients, providing the very basic primary care they practiced years ago. All jobs were done with the utmost compassion and excellence that our school exemplifies and values above all.

Those of you who spent time at the Brown medical clinic know who you are. To all of you – and to those who kept the home fires burning at the Medical School during this demanding time and during Hurricane Rita – I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. It is my privilege to work with you and our privilege to have each of you in our midst.

SUMMER PROGRAM OPENS DOORS TO INTERNATIONAL MED STUDENTS

The Medical School's Summer Research Program had an international flavor this summer with the inclusion of foreign medical students for the first time in its history.

One student from Mexico and two from Taiwan joined the more than 50 first-year Medical School students and undergraduate students for the summer program, which pairs students with faculty mentors and puts an emphasis on laboratory research.

The idea to add international medical students to the program started as a request to take in a group of foreign students two years ago.

"We had a last-minute request, but we weren't able to accommodate them because we did not have a legal agreement. From then, I realized this was something we should try to do in an appropriate way," explained **Dr. Hui-Ming Chang**, associate vice president for international

(Cont'd. on back)



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E-Scoop online:

http://www.med.uth.tmc.edu/community_affairs/escoop.htm

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Join Fitness Center Before Fees Increase Oct. 1

Start an end-of-summer exercise regimen by joining the Medical School Fitness Center (MSFC). All faculty and staff who join before Oct. 1 will save \$58 on an annual membership. The current rate for an annual employee membership is \$240; however, the rate will increase to \$298 effective Oct. 1. As always, membership allows dual membership to both the Fitness Center and the Recreation Center on Knight Road.

Located on the eighth floor, the Fitness Center has an indoor gym, weight room, cardiovascular equipment, and locker rooms. The dual membership also allows participation in programs offered at the Recreation Center, such as group fitness, wellness, personal training, recreational sports, and aquatics.

Group fitness classes at the MSFC are now included in membership fees. For Fitness Center class schedules, programs, and other facility details, visit <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu>.

All full-time employees can take advantage of the payroll deduction option for Fitness Center fees. For more information about joining, call the Fitness Center at 713-500-5044 or visit <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu>.

International summer research, cont'd.

A series of meetings resulted with an agreement with Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico, and Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan.

"I told each dean to select one or two students they are most proud of to send, and we'll start this way," Chang said.

Those students were Raul Ossio Vela, from Monterrey, Mexico, and Nicholas Yeh and Paul Lin, both from Taiwan.

"The international medical students we had this year were outstanding – they worked out beautifully," said **Dr. Gary Rosenfeld**, assistant dean for educational programs and director of the Summer Research Program.

"We're glad that with the competition between other U.S. universities, these schools have decided to send these bright students – this shows our program is providing value," Chang said.

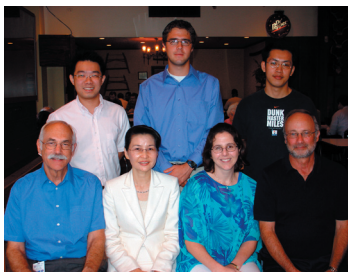
Each student was assigned a faculty member with whom to work – just like the domestic Summer Research Program students. Unlike their U.S. counterparts, student mentors also were identified for the international medical students to help them pave the way in a foreign environment. Jimmie Pope, coordinator of the program, helped with the orientation of the students and coordinated several special enrichment activities designed for the international visitors.

Vela, who plans to return to the United States to do his residency and specialize in neurosurgery, was paired with the laboratory of **Dr. John Byrne** in the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy.

"It was great. I was doing experiments with neurons and proteins in the snails, *Aplysia*," he said. "I appreciate the opportunity to come here."

Yeh, who said he has not decided upon his specialty yet but wants to return to the United States to pursue a Ph.D., worked in the lab of **Dr. Carmen Dessauer** in the Department of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology.

"I learned quite a bit from her lab and the members of her lab. I am quite satisfied with the Summer Research Program," he said.



Drs. William Dowhan, Hui-Ming Chang, Carmen Dessauer, Gary Rosenfeld
Back row (L-R): **Nicholas Yeh, Raul Ossio, Paul Lin**

Students Honor Outstanding Faculty

Second-year Medical School students selected outstanding faculty from their first year and presented them with awards Sept. 7.

Best Teacher

Biochemistry
Henry Strobel, Ph.D.

Developmental Anatomy
Carla Rogers, Ph.D.

Gross Anatomy
Leonard Cleary, Ph.D.
Lawrence Ross, M.D., Ph.D.

Histology
Elizabeth Hartwell, M.D.

Best Course
Gross Anatomy

Best Course Director
Leonard Cleary, Ph.D.

Best Teacher

Immunology
Jeffrey Actor, Ph.D.
L. Scott Rodkey, Ph.D.

Introduction to Clinical Medicine
Mark Farnie, M.D.
Edie Schulman, M.D.

Microbiology
Lisa Armitage, M.D., Ph.D.
Gilbert Castro, Ph.D.

Neuroscience
John Byrne, Ph.D.
Terry Crow, Ph.D.

Physiology
Stanley Schultz, M.D.
Norman Weisbrodt, Ph.D.

Best Course
Physiology

Best Course Director
Nachum Dafny, Ph.D.

Lin, who said he will likely specialize in surgery, worked in the lab of **Dr. William Dowhan** in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

"It's a shame we couldn't enjoy the enrichment programs (at the start of the program), but the tours were nice because we could see the differences between the hospitals here and in Taiwan," Lin said, adding that he would like to return to the United States to get his Ph.D.

Although the Summer Research Program is a 10-week program, due to conflicting academic schedules, the international medical students spent eight weeks at the Medical School.

"We didn't think the calendar year would be a problem, but we're going to try to work it out – the holiday times are different in different countries," Chang said.

Due to the success of the program's first year, Chang and Rosenfeld said the plans are to gradually expand it. An affiliation agreement has been signed with Chile and one more is in the works, Chang said.

"The idea is to slowly develop an international program," Rosenfeld said. "By expanding the program internationally, we hope to expose these medical students to our system and to allow our students to get a view of foreign medical education."

"If we keep going, we'll have multiple universities exchanging both cultural and medical knowledge. In the end, it's a win-win situation for everyone – the visiting student, our students, and our faculty," Chang said.