

Events to Know

August

29 Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) course for blue book credit: "Herbal Products." Noon-1 p.m., MSB 1.006. Earn credit by attending six of eight sessions; six sessions remain in the series.

30 Graduate Student Education Committee Mixer. 4 p.m., MSB Leather Lounge.

31 CAM course: "Body Manipulation: Chiropractic and Massage." Noon-1 p.m., MSB 1.006.

September

1 Meet the Artists reception. Noon-1 p.m., Medical School Art Wall.

4 Labor Day Holiday.

UTMost Interest

Dr. Richard Yee, professor of ophthalmology and visual science, was quoted in the April 20 issue of the *Houston Chronicle* about Fuchs' dystrophy, an incurable genetic disorder that is the most common reason for cornea transplants. Yee uses an innovative surgical procedure where a single layer of corneal cells is transplanted to the patient's cornea, thereby reducing the need for a full cornea transplant.

Dr. Ferid Murad, the John S. Dunn, Sr. Distinguished Chair in Physiology and Medicine and professor of integrative biology and pharmacology, delivered the following annual keynote/plenary lectures: Albert Einstein College of Medicine graduate student lecture; Massachusetts Medical Society Shattuck Lecture to be published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*; Baylor College of Medicine Molecular Surgeon Symposium; Harvard University graduate student lecture; and American Society of Hypertension 21st Annual Scientific Meeting. The lectures were about the basic biology and biochemistry of nitric oxide and cyclic guanosine monophosphate and their application to drug development and therapy for various diseases.

Ramin named chair of obstetrics, gynecology

Interim Dean **Jerry Wolinsky** has announced the appointment of **Dr. Susan Ramin** as chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, effective Sept. 1.

"Dr. Ramin is well-respected locally and nationally for her research studies and clinical care in the field of maternal-fetal medicine," Wolinsky said. "I am confident that, as chair, she will be an asset to the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and in advancing the mission of the Medical School."

Ramin, holder of the Berel Held, M.D., Professorship in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, is director of the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, which is recognized as one of 14 National Institutes of Health Maternal-Fetal Medicine Network Centers. She replaces **Dr. Larry Gilstrap** who will retire as chair of the department Aug. 31.

Her research focuses on complicated or high-risk pregnancies, while working to improve the outcome for mothers and infants.

Under her leadership, the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine offers consultations to patients with high-risk obstetrical problems, as well as ongoing prenatal care for high-risk patients. The division also offers pre-pregnancy counseling for patients with medical problems, complicated obstetrical histories, or for those patients who want up-to-date information before attempting pregnancy.

The training of future physicians is important to Ramin, as she also serves as director of the

(Cont'd. on back)



Dr. Susan Ramin starts as chair Sept. 1.

UCRC celebrates five-year renewal, new facility

With a recently refunded grant and a spacious new facility, investigators and staff of the University Clinical Research Center are poised to take the next step in cutting-edge clinical research.

Thanks to a \$9.4 million grant from the National Center for Research Resources of the National Institutes of Health, the UCRC – as it is known locally – will maintain its status for five more years through 2011 as a center of excellence for clinical research.

The UCRC is one of 80 centers in the country to be designated as an NIH-funded General Clinical Research Center. It was originally funded in 1986 and is currently experiencing its 20th year of funding. **Dr. Pablo Okhuysen**, professor of internal medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, has been the director since 2002.

Okhuysen said the grant supports the UCRC's work in two ways. "We have two sides to the grant," he said. "One side is to provide funds to support the work of investigators. The other one is to provide them with personnel to help them out with their research."

The grant supports the work of approximately 80 investigators, seven nurses, a biostatistician, an ethicist, a dietician, a unit manager, a nursing manager, two clerical positions, a bioinformatics manager, two staff positions in the genetics core lab, a director, and two associate directors (**Drs. Dianna Milewicz and W. Keith Hoots**).

Over the past 20 years, the UCRC has managed nearly 300 projects with funding from the

(Cont'd. on back)



Madelene Ottosen, Donna Grayson, Dr. Pablo Okhuysen, and Dr. Cheryl Chanaud (L-R) enjoy their time at the open house.



Two new shows for the Art Wall

It's a busy season for the Medical School's Art Wall, which has played host to the traveling exhibit "TMC Through the Camera Lens" and will debut a new exhibit next week.

"Through the Camera Lens" displays the winners of a Texas Medical Center-wide photography contest, including **Eric Rasch**, web developer in the Office of Communications, and second-year Medical School student **John Griffin**.

The exhibit, which features categories from "history" to "scenes," went up Aug. 16 and will be moving Aug. 30, as it tours venues throughout the Texas Medical Center.

The next regularly scheduled show for the Art Wall will be marked Sept. 1 with sweeping beach photography, intricate collages, and realistic drawings, and feted at a Meet the Artists reception from noon to 1 p.m. in front of the wall.

Featured artists will be photographer **Dr. Rita Swinford**, associate professor of pediatrics; **Lynne Arnett**, who does collage and is chair of the art wall committee; and **Phillip Chang**, who works in pen and ink, oil, color pencils, and pastel. Chang is the husband of **Lily Chang**, who works in the Department of Surgery and father to **Audrey Chang**, a pediatrician who graduated from the Medical School. Arnett is married to **Dr. Frank Arnett**, holder of the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology.

All artists who show on the Art Wall must be members of the Medical School family or related to them. To submit art to the Art Wall and for more guidelines, see the link under "staff and faculty" on the Medical School's homepage, med.uth.tmc.edu.

-D. Brown



A viewer admires photos from the Art Wall's exhibit, "TMC Through the Camera Lens."

Announcing dna – dailynewsaccess

Have you noticed the two flat screen monitors located on the ground floor in the leather lounge and by the green elevators? They are the Medical School's newest communication tool called **dna** or **daily news access**. The monitors are now operational and capable of broadcasting Medical School information 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

Events, lectures, alerts, or bulletins may be added but must be sponsored by an officially recognized Medical School department, office, student group, or school organization.

Content can be added by using the provided templates located on the **dna** Web site at med.uth.tmc.edu/dna. The templates are downloadable and preformatted but can be easily modified to fit content appropriately.

To submit content for **dna**, send an e-mail to ms.dna@uth.tmc.edu and attach the saved template.

The Office of Communications recommends using a separate template for each event and submitting content one week in advance of the event date. The office reserves the right to delete and/or edit event listings.

For more information, visit the **dna** Web site at med.uth.tmc.edu/dna or send an e-mail to ms.dna@uth.tmc.edu.



UCRC, cont'd.

grant, administration from the Medical School, and a partnership with Memorial Hermann Hospital.

The partnership with Memorial Hermann was instrumental in securing new clinical space for the UCRC, which recently moved from the sixth floor to the third floor in the hospital's Robertson Pavilion.

A grand opening to celebrate the center's grant renewal and new quarters was held Aug. 2.

"I believe that we have immense opportunities for new developments, clinical innovations, and remarkable treatments that we have not yet envisioned," said **Juanita Romans**, chief executive officer of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, at the open house. "This celebration is a moment to stop and appreciate the results of our mutual efforts to develop these modern research centers."

Guests at the open house toured the new facility, which is nearly double the size of the previous space and includes four new inpatient rooms, larger laboratory space, and a waiting room.

"We are integrating the administration of the UCRC and the clinical space with the Center for Clinical Innovation and Research of the hospital all on one same floor," Okhuysen explained. "Now we can interact with the administration of the hospital, so that makes it a lot more efficient."

With a refunded grant and a new facility, the UCRC is well positioned to move to the next stage in clinical research.

"Many positive things are converging to make UT-Houston and Memorial Hermann Hospital System an unparalleled program in clinical and translational research," Okhuysen said. "The renewal of our GCRC grant application, this beautiful facility, and the commitment of our clinical partners in supporting centers for excellence are all signs that it is a very good time indeed to be in clinical research here at UT and Memorial Hermann Hospital System."

-C. Webb



A farewell reception for **Dr. Kenneth Wu**, the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Chair in Gerontology and professor of internal medicine, was held Aug. 15 and hosted by UT Health Science Center President **Dr. James Willerson**. Wu will begin a new position as president and distinguished investigator of the National Health Research Institutes in Taiwan, R.O.C.

Ramin, cont'd.

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellowship Program.

She received her medical degree from the University of Minnesota and completed her residency and maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. Following a long tenure as a faculty member at UT Southwestern, she joined the Medical School in 1999.

-C. Webb