



Scoop

Feb. 3, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

February

- 4 16th Preventive Cardiology Forum.** 8 a.m.-1:05 p.m., MSB 3.001. To register, visit www.UTcme.com.
- 7 Dr. Hector Viadiu (Harvard Medical School)** to present "The Electron Microscopy Complements X-Ray Crystallography." 11 a.m., MSB 2.135.
- 8 MSRDP Annual Board Meeting.** 4 p.m.-6 p.m., MSB 2.103. All members invited.
- 11 18th Annual Epilepsy Update.** 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Hotel Derek, Houston. To register, visit www.UTcme.com.
- 15 Employee of the Quarter nominations due.** Forms located at www.uth.tmc.edu/ms_erc/employee_awards.html. Submit forms to Dawn Alvarado, MSB G.300, or via e-mail at dawn.alvarado@uth.tmc.edu.

UTMost Interest

Dr. James Baumgartner, associate professor of pediatric neurosurgery, and **Dr. Charles Cox**, professor of pediatric surgery, were quoted in the Dec. 23, 2005, issue of the *Houston Chronicle* about a clinical trial that uses stem cells to treat traumatic brain injury in children.

Dr. Riad Meada, assistant professor of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, was quoted in the Jan. 17 issue of *The Courier* about the first open-heart surgery performed at Memorial Hermann Hospital – The Woodlands.

Dr. Cheng Chi Lee, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, and **Dr. Guy Clifton**, professor of neurosurgery, were quoted in the Jan. 18 issue of the *Houston Chronicle* about the discovery of a hibernation gene in animals, which could translate into a new target for obesity and type 2 diabetes research.

Dr. Rafael Botero, associate professor of medicine, was quoted in the Jan. 19 issue of the *Houston Chronicle* about hemochromatosis, a genetic disorder that causes the body to absorb and accumulate too much iron.

REPLACEMENT RESEARCH FACILITY REACHES A MILESTONE

The six-story Replacement Research Facility's last floor has gone up, with the last of the large concrete pours finishing up this week.

"The other half of the roof deck was poured this week, and there are a few minor concrete pours, like the loading dock, which will happen over the next couple of weeks," said **Kyle Roth**, project manager, UT System Office of Facilities, Planning and Construction.

After the concrete pours are completed, a mechanical penthouse will be placed on top of the building. A Feb. 17 "topping out" ceremony for construction workers – placing a tree on top of the building – will signify the last piece of steel being placed on the highest part of the roof.

"The topping out ceremony means the building has reached its highest elevation. The tree symbolizes that you've reached the pinnacle," Roth explained.

Precast concrete panels are going up on the building, starting at the northwest corner of the first floor and moving up in a counterclockwise direction.

"These panels will create the envelope of the building, and you will soon see zinc paneling that fills in part of the envelope," Roth added.

Windows and mechanical duct work to provide heating and air conditioning will be forthcoming. *(Cont'd. on back)*



A worker oversees a final concrete pour for the RRF.

BOGA TO SERVE AS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT

Jerre Iversen, health science center vice president of development, and **Dr. Michael McKinney**, on behalf of **Dean Stanley Schultz**, have jointly announced that **Shernaz Boga** will serve as interim executive director of development and alumni relations for the Medical School while a search to find a permanent director continues.

"My top priorities include helping the development office in the Medical School get fully staffed; leading the fund-raising efforts already under way at the school, particularly for the Surgical and Clinical Skills Center and the McGovern Center; working with department chairs on how to develop fund-raising programs for their departments; and continuing to plan fund-raising efforts for the four basic science areas identified by Dr. Schultz for the Replacement Research Facility," Boga said.

Boga will transfer to an office at the Medical School next week. Currently executive director of development for the health science center, she also will retain some responsibilities with that position during her interim position at the Medical School.

"I am happy to step into this interim role and will try to assist the Medical School get further down the path toward a successful, mature, and productive development program," Boga said. "The school has enormous potential to be raising significant dollars from Houston's philanthropic community, and while some success has already been achieved, I believe much more can be accomplished."

(Cont'd. on back)



THE UNIVERSITY
of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL
AT HOUSTON

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UT Bariatric Center Achieves Excellence Rating from ASBS

The American Society for Bariatric Surgery (ASBS) has designated The University of Texas Medical School Bariatric Center as a "Center of Excellence."

The center's surgeons, **Terry Scarborough, M.D.**, and **Erik Wilson, M.D.**, assistant professors of the Department of Surgery, offer laparoscopic gastric bypass and lap band weight-loss surgeries at Memorial Hermann Hospital.

To reach Center of Excellence standards, bariatric programs must meet key criteria including quality measures, outcome monitoring, and patient follow-up. Qualified programs also are required to have specific equipment, supplies, and appropriately trained staff.

At the UT Bariatric Center, Scarborough and Wilson incorporate advanced surgical techniques into the comprehensive program to safely help morbidly-obese patients achieve long-term weight loss. Morbid obesity refers to patients who are at least 100 pounds above their ideal body weight or have a body mass index value greater than 39.

The center is one of the few bariatric programs nationwide that uses surgical robotics, and preliminary data shows its use is improving patient safety and outcomes. The center's complication rates are significantly lower than the national average.

Scarborough and Wilson joined the faculty in 2002 and built upon a surgical weight-loss program developed by **Frank Moody, M.D.**, professor of surgery. The center emphasizes a comprehensive team approach and comprises specialists in medicine, surgery, psychiatry, psychology, and nutrition.

The program also has monthly informational meetings for prospective patients and support groups for patients who already have had surgery.

In addition to performing surgeries at Memorial Hermann, Scarborough and Wilson, who specialize in minimally invasive procedures, see patients at the UT Physicians West Loop Clinic, 1776 Yorktown, and The University of Texas Health Science Center Professional Building, 6410 Fannin. For an appointment, call 713.572.8122.

-M. Raine

18th Annual Epilepsy Update Set Feb. 11

The Medical School's Department of Neurology proudly presents the 18th Annual Epilepsy Update from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 (registration at 7 a.m.). Topics include a wide variety of updates in the field of epilepsy. Local and national speakers will present at this continuing medical education symposium held at the Hotel Derek in the Houston Galleria area.

For registration fees and additional information about the program, visit www.UTcme.com or contact **Christy Ankrom** at 713.500.7117 or Christy.Ankrom@uth.tmc.edu.

RRF milestone, cont'd.

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Meanwhile, designs for the interior of the building are shaping up with the vivarium design having been bid out and the design of the remaining four floors to be bid out to contractors. Design efforts to coordinate the connection of the RRF to the Medical School Building also are under way.

The building is on budget and on schedule to open in the fall of 2007.

-D. Brown

"Personal Leadership Skills" for Women, Feb. 14

The Texas Medical Center Women's Health Network presents "Personal Leadership Skills," a free seminar from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14 at the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center Library Ground Level Conference Room, Jesse H. Jones Library Building.

Featured speakers are **Bonnie Hellums, J.D.**, judge of the 247th Family District Court and first Family Drug Court in Harris County, and **Carel Stith, J.D.**, franchisee for UCC Total Home. Hellums and Stith will present on the importance of developing communication skills in relation to effective leadership.

February's seminar is part of the network's Leadership Forum Series, taking place January to May 2006. The eight-session forum includes four public seminars and four registrants-only workshop sessions, all designed to help women in health-care professions improve their leadership skills.

For details, call 832.868.5486 or e-mail info@whn.library.tmc.edu.

♥ Valentine's Day Sweet Sales ♥

Just in time for Feb. 14, both the University Classified Staff Council and the Employee Relations Committee are having Valentine's Day sweet sales.

For \$2, the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) will send a "Just Because" box of chocolates to any health science center employee this Valentine's Day. For more details, see the UCSC Web site at www.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/special_interest/committees/ucsc/ or contact **Angel Hooper** at 713.500.9124. Your dollars benefit the UCSC Scholarship fund.

The Employee Relations Committee will have a one-day sale beginning at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 14 in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. Stop by and purchase flowers, candy, various gift items, and fresh baked goodies for all your pals.



Health science center faculty, staff, and students took time Jan. 25 to get healthy and gather wellness tips at the UT Health Science Center Wellness Fair in the Medical School's Leather Lounge. Participants took advantage of free dental, glucose, blood pressure, body fat, and vision screenings, stocked up on brochures, and had their health questions answered by experts.

Boga's appointment, cont'd.

Boga began working for the university in 2002 as director of corporate relations. Before that, she worked as director of corporate relations for the Houston Symphony and as annual campaign manager for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

-C. Webb