



Scoop

June 2, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

Events to Know

June

8 TMC Photographic Contest Reception to honor winners. 3 p.m.-5 p.m., HAM-TMC Library street level conference room (JL building). Congratulations to Medical School winners Eric Rasch and John Griffin!

12 Global Coalition on Women and Aids U.S. Tour Presentation and Open Forum. 9 a.m., SPH.

Students Win Awards for Research

Two students from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, **Christopher Singh** and **Violeta Chavez**, presented their research successfully at the “Bugs, Drugs and Vaccines: Securing Our Future,” conference in Galveston from April 5-6, and both students received two of the three best poster prizes among the 75 abstracts submitted.

Singh, working under **Dr. Chinnaswamy Jagannath** in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, presented “Novel molecular mechanism for a new vaccine against tuberculosis.” He received the best poster award and travel award in the “Vaccine” category. The poster was coauthored by students **Cherie Roche** and **Mary Anne Mashruwala** and collaborators **Dr. Lisa Armitige**, Internal Medicine, and **Dr. Robert Hunter**, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. In addition, Singh was awarded an AAI 2006 Minority Scientists Travel Award to present his research at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) 2006 annual meeting in Boston from May 12-16. He also recently received the Best Thesis Award from the Rice University-Texas Medical Center Chapter of Sigma Xi.

Chavez, working under **Dr. Danielle Garsin** in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, presented, “C. elegans Produces Reactive Oxygen Species in Response to Pathogens.” She received the best poster award and travel award in the “Pathogenesis” category. The poster was coauthored by **Luis Vega**, an undergraduate student from Rice University, and **Arash Maadani**, a research technician in Garsin’s laboratory.

MILEWICZ INDUCTED INTO ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PHYSICIANS

Dr. Diana Milewicz, the President George H. W. Bush Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, was inducted into the prestigious Association of American Physicians (AAP) April 30 during the annual business meeting in Chicago.

Founded in 1885 for the advancement of scientific and practical medicine, the AAP Council each year nominates 55 individuals for membership.

“The honor is very well deserved, and we are again very proud of Dr. Milewicz,” said UT Health Science Center President **Dr. James Willerson**.

Milewicz, who has been at the Medical School since 1991, is an internist with a subspecialty in human genetics. Her research focuses on identifying genetic variations that predispose individuals to vascular diseases, such as aortic aneurysms and dissections. Aneurysm is a bulging of the aorta that leads to dissection, a lengthwise separation of tissues in the artery wall. The condition often kills suddenly with no warning symptoms.

Milewicz is professor and director of the Division of Medical Genetics and the M.D./Ph.D. Program in the Medical School and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). She was vice chair of the Department of Internal Medicine for four years. She was named a Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist in 2002, was elected a fellow of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program in 2004, and received the Distinguished Professional Woman Award from the health science center’s Committee on the Status of Women in 2005.

In a note of congratulations on her most recent honor, **Dr. Michael McKinney**, senior executive
(Cont’d. on back)



Dr. Diana Milewicz

ANNUAL FACULTY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS OF SCHOOL

Nearly 170 faculty and staff attended the May 24 Annual Faculty Meeting, which included a guest speaker and updates on the progress and state of the Medical School.

Although **Dr. Jerry Wolinsky**, interim dean of the Medical School, saved his progress report for last, he provided an early update on the health and status of Dean Stanley Schultz. Schultz left the hospital May 23 to return home; he had been recovering at Memorial Hermann Hospital and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center since his emergency heart bypass surgery Nov. 29.

Guest speaker **Dr. Ronald Johnson** spoke to attendees about the importance of diversity and the need for concern at the local, national, and international levels. Johnson is chief diversity officer of the health science center, and he said diversity impacts all segments of higher education and the economic, political, and social climate of our culture.

Dr. Gary Rosenfeld, outgoing chair of the Faculty Senate, highlighted segments of the senate’s progress over the year, including Rosenfeld’s goals as chair, the creation of senate sub-committees, departmental communications, hurricane response and preparedness, university travel, and faculty evaluations.

Dr. Patricia Butler, associate dean for educational programs, reported on the status of undergraduate and graduate medical education. Undergraduate curriculum updates were provided for 2005-2006, including integrative exercises and team-based learning in the first year; development of a “Competency-Based” curriculum and Medical School Academy of Educators; and the

(Cont’d. on back)



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*A part of The University of Texas
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TIAA-CREF Distinguished Medical Educator Award – Dr. Frank C. Arnett Jr.



Dr. Frank Arnett

The three missions of the Medical School are research, education, and clinical care, and **Frank C. Arnett Jr., M.D.**, believes training the next generation of physicians is the most important part of that mission.

“I think teaching is the most important mission of the school and each faculty member, but one must enjoy doing it well,” Arnett said. “One must become excited to see a student or trainee evolve into a highly competent and outstanding physician, scientist, teacher, or all of the above.”

Arnett is the 2006 winner of the TIAA-CREF Distinguished Medical Educator Award, which annually honors teaching physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals who have a long history of significant contributions to medical education and who have nationally and internationally impacted medical education. TIAA-CREF and the John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science provide support for the award, and Arnett will be formally recognized at a June 22 award ceremony.

Arnett joined the Medical School in 1984 as director of the Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunogenetics – a role he held until 2000 when he became chair of the Department of Internal Medicine.

He served as chair until 2004 and is now the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology and a professor of internal medicine.

“I teach in all four years of medical school, as well as residents and fellows,” Arnett said, adding that this allows him to see the students blossom over the years. “It’s amazing to see the difference between a first-year medical student and a first-year resident – the transformation is extraordinary.”

Arnett’s other teaching awards include the John P. McGovern Award in 2000 and 2003, the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award in 2001, and the President’s Scholar Award for Teaching in 2005. He feels honored to be recognized by TIAA-CREF as an educator and said that a teacher should also learn from his students.

“The teacher needs to feel good at the end of the day because he or she has taught something new but also has learned something new themselves,” he said.

The award carries a \$10,000 honorarium, and scholarships will be donated in Arnett’s name to children attending the John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science’s Mini Medical School Summer Camp. The 2005 TIAA-CREF Distinguished Medical Educator was **Herbert L. Fred, M.D.**, professor of internal medicine.

-C. Webb

Dean’s Research Scholarship Award 2006

The deadline to apply for the Dean’s Research Scholarship Award for \$2,500 is June 9. The award recognizes Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) students who have achieved distinction in biomedical research. Up to 10 scholarships are available to GSBS students with Medical School faculty advisers.

Students must have successfully advanced to Ph.D. candidacy prior to the application deadline, be registered as a full-time student, and must not have received the award before.

Awardees will be expected to give 10-minute presentations of their research and attend a reception in August.

The Medical School Graduate Student Education Committee will review applications and select awardees. For applications, see www.uth.tmc.edu/gsec or contact **Kimberly Campbell** at 713.500.5605.

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Milewicz, cont’d.

utive vice president and chief operating officer of the health science center, wrote, “This distinction is a wonderful testament to your record of excellence and achievement. You continue to bring honor to the health science center and Medical School.”

Nine others from the UT Health Science Center are members of the AAP: **Drs. Frank Arnett Jr.**, Medical School; **C. Thomas Caskey**, Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases (IMM); **Herbert DuPont**, School of Public Health and GSBS; **Irma Gigli**, IMM and GSBS; **K. Lance Gould**, Medical School; **Ferid Murad**, IMM, Medical School, and GSBS; **Barbara Murray**, Medical School and GSBS; **James Willerson**; and **Kenneth Wu**, IMM, Medical School, and GSBS.

-I. Fried

Faculty meeting, cont’d.

LCME (Liaison Committee for Medical Education) Accreditation site visit. The graduate medical education report provided information on residents, fellows, programs, and current activities.

Dr. Margaret McNeese, associate dean for student affairs, gave updates for the Offices of Admissions and Student Affairs. She noted the 2006 entering class has an average GPA of 3.69 and an average MCAT score of 28.6/P. A slow increase in class size, by 10 students/year, also was reported to total 120 more students by 2010. McNeese concluded her report with information on visiting students from Tulane University School of Medicine.

Dr. Michael Bungo, vice dean for clinical affairs, detailed the school’s clinical enterprises, including the joint venture with Outpatient Imaging Affiliates to create the UT Imaging Center and the relief response in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Dr. John Byrne, assistant dean for research affairs, updated attendees on the activities of research and postdoctoral affairs, including interim grant assistance to faculty, initiation of the Graduate Student Education Committee (GSEC), and the establishment of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, which held its first event for fellows in April.

Angela Hintzel, director of finance, gave the school’s financial report and a forecast of the 2007 fiscal year budget, along with comparisons of the budgets of previous years.

Wolinsky concluded the meeting with the state of the school and plans for the future. He noted the school’s recovery from Tropical Storm Allison is almost finished, and a new facility – the Surgical and Clinical Skills Center – is on its way to completion as well. Objectives for the remainder of the year included the search and recruitment of a new dean for the Medical School and the implementation of a comprehensive fund-raising campaign to raise \$120 million.

For those who missed the meeting, a videocast may be found online via a link from the Medical School’s homepage, med.uth.tmc.edu.

-C. Webb