



# Scoop

June 9, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL SCHOOL AT HOUSTON

## Events to Know

### June

- 12 Global Coalition on Women and Aids U.S. Tour Presentation and Open Forum.** 9 a.m., SPH.
- 16 "Communicating Assertively," an HR-Training and Development class.** 9 a.m.-11 a.m., MSB B.625.

### CORRECTION:

Dean Stanley Schultz is a member emeritus of the Association of American Physicians (AAP) and was elected in 1982.

## Kudos to Pediatrics

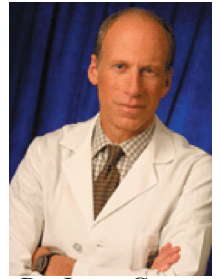
Two faculty members from the Medical School's pediatrics department recently received awards for their good work.

**Dr. Jason Anthony**, assistant professor of pediatrics, and colleagues won the International Reading Association's (IRA) 2006 Albert J. Harris Award for the co-authored article, "The effects of theoretically different instruction and student characteristics on the skills of struggling readers," published in *Reading Research Quarterly*. They received their award May 1, including a \$1,000 prize, at the IRA's 51st annual convention in Chicago. Co-authors for the article are **Patricia Mathes** of Southern Methodist University, **Carolyn Denton** of The University of Texas, **Jack Fletcher** and **David Francis** of the University of Houston, and **Christopher Schatschneider** of Florida State University.

**Dr. Kathleen Kennedy**, professor of pediatrics, was selected the Advocate for Nutrition Care from the clinical nutrition staff at Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. The award was created to recognize those who incorporate nutrition care into their area of practice, as well as actively involve the registered dietitian in activities of patient care at Memorial Hermann. Kennedy also was recognized for sharing her knowledge of current nutrition research, beginning the nutritional journal club, and chairing the neonatal feeding committee.

## GROTTA NAMED AHA PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

**Dr. James Grotta**, the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Distinguished Chair in Neurology and director of the Medical School's Stroke Program, was awarded the American Heart Association's (AHA) prestigious "Physician of the Year" Award recently, during the organization's annual Volunteer Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.



Dr. James Grotta

Since joining the Medical School in 1979, Grotta's research has focused on the development of new therapies for acute stroke patients, including studies on the biology of brain injury and recovery after stroke. Grotta has taken innovative research projects from the laboratory to the bedside while training new stroke physicians.

"Dr. Grotta continues to find ways to garner the support needed to fight this nation's number three killer," says **Midge Epstein**, executive vice president of the American Heart Association's Texas affiliate. "His dedication to patients is deeply known and felt by all who work alongside him. It is precisely why we have honored him."

Grotta has led numerous research studies, including one that was the first to support the use of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA), a now widely accepted treatment that can reduce disability from stroke. Establishing a collaborative network between the Medical School, Memorial Hermann Hospital, the Houston Fire Department-EMS, and other regional hospital stroke centers, Grotta guided medical stroke teams to increase the delivery of appropriate therapy to acute stroke  
*(Cont'd. on back)*

## 2006 COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATES GRADUATES, FACULTY

More than 200 graduating medical students moved forward to their future as physicians at the Medical School's 2006 Commencement ceremony May 27 in the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The ceremony included a keynote address by **Dr. Kenneth Shine**, executive vice chancellor for health affairs at The University of Texas System, recognition of awards, and conferment of the doctor of medicine degrees.

Awards presented to graduating students included the Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence to **Rae-gan D'Ann Hunt**; the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Gold-Headed Cane Award to **Acsa Merari Zavala** (honorable mentions went to **Allyson McKenney** and **Chad Richard Smith**); and the Hitoshi C. Nikaidoh, M.D. Award for Humanism in Medicine to **Julie Phillely**.

Alumni and faculty awards recognized at commencement included the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award to **Dr. J. Christopher Farmer**, ('82); the John Freeman Faculty Teaching Award to **Dr. Han Zhang**; the John P. McGovern Award to **Dr. Octavio Pinell**; the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award to **Dr. W. Keith Hoots**; the Herbert L. and Margaret W.

*(Cont'd. on back)*



Graduates gather for a group shot in the "Robing Room" at Commencement.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of TEXAS

MEDICAL SCHOOL  
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## Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award – Dr. John W. Sparks



Dr. John Sparks

**John W. Sparks, M.D.**, David R. Park Professor of Pediatrics and director of the Fellowship Program in Neonatology, has been named the winner of the Herbert L. and Margaret W. DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award.

Established in 2001 and made possible by a gift from the DuPonts, the award recognizes and preserves the essence and quality of the master clinical teacher, reflecting the Medical School's top priority of quality clinical medical education.

Sparks teaches a variety of courses, including second-year students in problem-based learning (PBL); a series of evening seminars in The Healer's Art, which he describes as a "great experience to get to know first- and second-year students;" and "Ethics and Professionalism," a second-year seminar.

Sparks said he has specifically made time for teaching – especially during his busy tenure as chair of the Department of Pediatrics from 1995-2005.

"It's a nice opportunity to meet with students, and it's what being at the Medical School is all about – teaching. Our chief resident for pediatrics for next year was one of my former PBL students. It's very satisfying to see her and to see others grow professionally after their student days," he said.

Sparks also teaches on the neonatal unit at Memorial Hermann Hospital, where he teaches fellows, residents, and fourth-year students taking electives, and he has taught on the general pediatric service at Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital with the third-year clerkship and residents.

"That is a great first exposure to pediatrics for the students – at the first of the month they are hesitant, learning how to approach the family and the children. Then by the end, they come away really knowing something," he said.

Pediatrics also has an active neonatal fellowship program, which Sparks directs.

As far as his teaching philosophy, Sparks explained it as a three-pronged approach. "Individually assessing each student, seeing where their skills are one-on-one, is key," he said. "Second, teaching the technical aspects with a degree of rigor is essential – they are here to learn from our service. And third, the professional skills, compassion, ethics, and professional development help to make the whole physician."

Sparks graduated from Harvard Medical School and did his residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He came to the Medical School in 1991.

Previous recipients of the award are **Victor R. Lavis, M.D.**, 2005; **Philip R. Orlander, M.D.**, 2004; **Ian J. Butler, M.D.**, 2003; **Patrick G. Brosnan, M.D.**, 2002; and **Frank C. Arnett Jr., M.D.**, 2001.

-D. Brown

### FROG hops into 18th year



For 17 years now, physicians, residents, nurses, midwives, and nurse practitioners have been hopping over to the UT FROG conference, which stands for Former Residents of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

What started off at a picnic at the house of program director **Dr. Patti Jayne Ross** has grown into a full weekend event that begins with a Friday conference full of speakers addressing the latest issues in obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences – set for June 23 this year. Four guest faculty, including **Dr. Larry Hollier**, acting chancellor of LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans who will speak on the impact of Katrina on health education, will give featured presentations. Eleven third-year ob/gyn residents will present research posters at the conference, showcasing the research requirement of their residency.

The festivities get started that evening with a resident roast Friday evening and continue the next day with a Saturday morning golf tournament, the Katz Classic – named for **Dr. Allan Katz**, vice chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. The weekend concludes with a formal dinner that evening at the St. Regis Hotel, where the award for outstanding resident research is given.

The conference is accredited by The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston's Office of Continuing Education, and attendees will receive a maximum of 7.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™, including 1 credit of ethics. Registration is available online via [www.utcme.net](http://www.utcme.net) through June 21.

-D. Brown

### Student wins AUR 2006 Memorial Award

Medical School student **David Fetzer** received the Association of University Radiologists' (AUR) 2006 Memorial Award for his research paper titled "Mathematical Modeling Improves Computed Tomography Diagnosis of Traumatic Aortic Injury." The award recognizes a winning manuscript on any aspect of radiology submitted by a radiology resident, a first year fellow, or a medical student. Fetzer also presented his paper during the AUR 54th Annual Meeting in Austin from April 5-8.

His research is the outcome of his participation in the Medical School's 2005 Summer Research Program with faculty mentor, **Dr. O. Clark West**, associate professor of diagnostic and interventional imaging and section chief of emergency and trauma radiology. The paper is scheduled for publication in the August issue of *Academic Radiology*.

#### Grotta award, cont'd.

patients in a timely manner.

Today, more than 60 percent of Houston-area stroke victims who call 9-1-1 arrive at stroke centers within two hours of symptom onset, a benchmark unmatched by any other city in the country. Using Grotta's protocols, Memorial Hermann Hospital successfully administers tPA to 20 percent of emergency room stroke patients, much better than the national average.

-S. Rasp

#### Commencement, cont'd.

DuPont Master Clinical Teaching Award to **Dr. John Sparks**; and the Alpha Omega Alpha Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award to **Dr. Oscar Rosales**.

Commencement activities concluded with **Dr. Jerry Wolinsky**, interim dean of the Medical School, leading students in the recitation of The Oath of Hippocrates.

-C. Webb