

Events to Know

September

30 Women and Liver Health Seminar 2006. 8 a.m.-3:50 p.m., Hilton Post Oak Hotel in Houston. Register at www.UTcme.net.

October

5 Medical School Research Retreat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Faye S. Sarofim Research Building. For details, contact kimberly.j.campbell@uth.tmc.edu.

6 Medical School Research Retreat. 8 a.m.-noon, Faye S. Sarofim Research Building. For details, contact kimberly.j.campbell@uth.tmc.edu.

6 Fun Fest 2006. 2-6 p.m., Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.

9 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman to present "Structure and Function of Glutamate Receptor." Noon, MSB 2.135.

12 Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Seminar: Dr. Eric Phizicky (University of Rochester) to present "tRNA: How and why it is all dressed up." 4-5 p.m., MSB 2.103.

16 Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Seminar: Dr. Farrah Kheradmand (Baylor College of Medicine) to present "Adaptive Immunity in Smoker's Lung Disease." Noon, MSB 2.135.

18 Faculty Honors Convocation. 5-7 p.m., Beth Robertson Auditorium in the Faye S. Sarofim Research Building.

Read and Romp 2006 will be 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 at River Oaks Country Club in Houston. Chaired by **Marie Louise Kinder**, this family event supports Reach Out and Read pediatric literacy programs across Texas. Children and families will "romp" through a maze of storybook activity stations and "rock" to a children's concert presented by Trout Fishing in America. For more information, call 713.500.3839 or e-mail mariekinder@hotmail.com.

New clinic offers "one stop" care for tuberous sclerosis patients

Experts at the Medical School, along with partners at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital, next month will open the region's first clinic dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC).

Dr. Hope Northrup, professor and director of medical genetics in the Department of Pediatrics at the Medical School, said the clinic will provide comprehensive care to patients while expanding opportunities for tuberous sclerosis research.

Tuberous sclerosis is a genetic disorder that causes benign tumors to grow in the brain and on other vital organs such as the kidneys, heart, eyes, lungs, and skin. It commonly affects the central nervous system and in some cases leads to serious medical problems. It is estimated that one in 6,000 babies will be diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis.

One special aspect of the clinic, which opens Oct. 2, is that it will serve both children and adults. It will be one of only 20 tuberous sclerosis clinics nationwide.

Northrup, whose interest in tuberous sclerosis began in 1987, spearheaded the effort to get the center up and running. "The clinic is vital to the Houston area for several reasons. First, with our growing population of between four and five million in the greater Houston area, there are 1,000 affected individuals living here. The closest tuberous sclerosis clinic to Houston is in Dallas at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, and patients are only followed at that clinic until the age of 18," Northrup said.

Houston's tuberous sclerosis clinic is specifically designed to meet the needs of patients and their family members. Because this disorder can affect several areas of the body, eight specialists in the fields of genetics, neurology, neurosurgery, epilepsy, dermatology, nephrology, cardiology, and ophthalmology will be part of the clinic. Patients will be able to book appointments with any of those specialists.

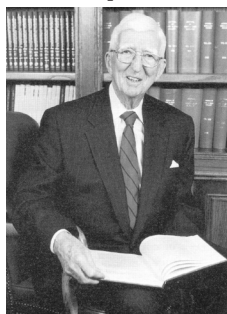
MaryJane Mudd's daughter was first diagnosed with tuberous sclerosis when she was just a year old. "You can spend a lot of time bringing your child to one specialist or another, every day of the year," Mudd said. "This clinic will make the journey of treating your child a whole lot easier."



Dr. Hope Northrup

(Cont'd. on back)

Orthopaedic lectureship marks 50 years



Dr. Edward T. Smith

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Edward T. Smith Orthopaedic Lectureship for residents and orthopedists in Texas, which is hosted by the UT Medical School's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. The topic for the conference, which will be Oct. 28 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Houston, is "Filling the Void: Biologics and Bone Graft."

The conference is named after **Dr. Edward T. Smith**, who was a pioneer in the field of orthopaedic surgery in Houston. In 1941, he established an accredited orthopaedic residency training program at Memorial Hermann Hospital, which later became the residency program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Dr. Dhiren Sheth, assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at the Medical School, is the program director for the conference, which is the oldest, longest-running lectureship of its kind in the Texas Medical Center.

To register or for information, contact **Peggy Bleichroth** at 713.500.7007 or visit www.uth.tmc.edu/ortho/.

-N. Wong Camarata



UT Medical School ranks high on top 10 list for Hispanics

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston came in at No. 8 among the top 10 medical schools for Hispanics, according to the September issue of *Hispanic Business* magazine.

8. The University of Texas Medical School at Houston

- Total graduate enrollment – **848**
- Hispanic graduate enrollment – **108**
- Percent Hispanic graduate enrollment – **13%**
- Total M.D. degrees earned – **221**
- M.D. degrees earned by Hispanics – **33**
- Percent of M.D. degrees earned by Hispanics – **15%**

Through its 18 clinical departments, the UT Medical School provides a full complement of inpatient and outpatient services that enables students to translate research experience into clinical practice. Students describe the medical school environment as collegial with a “family feeling.” The physical atmosphere is being enhanced with new classrooms and a gross anatomy lab, a new Surgical and Clinical Skills Center, and a six-story research building to open in fall 2007. The National Network of Latin American Medical Students, formed by Hispanic students, provides mutual support and community for its members. In addition, there is a Catholic Student Association and volunteer opportunities at Casa Juan Diego. The school provides an active retention program with tutors, individual faculty attention, and mentoring.

WITH HONORS...



Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky (center) meets with two of the three Medical School honorees at the Young Investigators Luncheon Sept. 7. Pictured are Dr. Kevin Morano (left) and Dr. Wenzheng Zhang.

Dr. Michael Blackburn (left) and Dr. Rod Kellems enjoy the Faculty Promotion Dinner hosted by Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky and his wife, Gerlind. The annual event honors newly promoted and tenured faculty. Faculty speakers were Blackburn, promoted to professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dr. Vasanthi Jayaraman promoted to associate professor with tenure in Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, and Dr. Mya Schiess promoted to professor in Neurology.



News to Know

• MHH Sky Bridge to close Sept. 30

The Memorial Hermann Hospital (MHH) Sky Bridge across Fannin Street will close Saturday, Sept. 30.

Additional police will be assigned to the Fannin Street crosswalk between The University of Texas Health Science Center Professional Building and the hospital to help patients and staff cross the street safely, during the period the bridge is totally closed.

The Sky Bridge will reopen in mid-November and will reconnect to the second floor of the UT Professional Building in the same location as the previous bridge access.

Informational posters will be displayed in the lobby of the UT Professional Building in the near future.

• HSC Bookstores discount books 5% from retail

Did you know the UT Health Science Center Bookstores discount all books 5 percent from suggested retail prices? The discount applies to books that are in stock or special ordered. Bookstore employees use the same providers for orders as Amazon.com, which means that books in stock on Amazon.com should arrive at the health science center in the same amount of time. Orders can be made via phone at 713.500.5860, fax at 713.500.0540, or e-mail at Anne.B.Bullard@uth.tmc.edu or Chevonne.E.Thornton@uth.tmc.edu.

The HSC Bookstores do not charge for regular shipping or handling for items picked up at any of the stores. Special charges for next-day or second-day delivery are charged to the customer at the same rate the bookstores are charged by the delivery service.

• Postdoktoberfest set Oct. 4

The postdoctoral offices of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center have joined together to host the first annual “Postdoktoberfest” from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4 on the north side of The Commons. Besides the opportunity to network with postdoctoral fellows from other institutions and open the door for possible collaborations, this event will provide a great reason to escape the lab, relax, and have some fun.

Hotdogs, soft pretzels, chips and dip, German chocolate cake, water, sodas, and other beverages will be served. If inclement weather occurs, the event will be moved inside The Commons.

You must be a postdoctoral fellow to participate, and I.D. badges are required. R.S.V.P. to leslie.shields@uth.tmc.edu.

New clinic, cont'd.

Northrup, a leading expert in the field of tuberous sclerosis with 30 published scientific articles, said the clinic’s long-term goals include not only providing care to patients, but also participating in clinical drug trials and the National TSC Natural History study. The national study will follow tuberous sclerosis patients throughout their lives to help doctors better understand the disease and devise treatment strategies.

The UT tuberous sclerosis clinic will be located in Suite 1010 of The University of Texas Health Science Center Professional Building, 6410 Fannin St. It will be open from 9 a.m. to noon the first Monday of each month.

For more information on tuberous sclerosis or the clinic, call 713.500.7032.

-M. McDonald