

# IMPACT



Master of Physical Therapy graduates (left to right) Heather Zissman, Edna Lopez and Kelly Tauzin prepare for the first SAHS winter commencement. As class president, Tauzin approached Dr. Charles Christiansen, SAHS dean, to request a more convenient ceremony for SAHS students finishing coursework in the fall.

## Students succeed in getting winter commencement

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

School of Allied Health Sciences students who requested that the school hold a winter commencement ceremony saw their goal realized Dec. 12 when 19 physical therapy graduates crossed the stage in Levin Hall Main Auditorium. A student in the new distance education program for clinical laboratory sciences also received her degree from the SAHS this fall.

The new commencement ceremony is expected to be a permanent addition to the SAHS schedule. Owing to curricular changes in several programs, many students now complete their courses of study just a few months after the typical summer commencement held in August. For these students, including those enrolled in the Master of Physical Therapy professional program, hold-

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## EXPANDING ON A GOOD IDEA

### *Fraternal Order of Eagles pledges \$82,000 to help expand Camp RAD to other Texas communities*

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

The Texas State Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles has pledged \$82,000 to help establish UTMB's model asthma camp, Camp RAD, in Texas communities to teach children asthma self-management skills.

Since 1994, Anne L. Meng, Camp RAD director and assistant professor of nursing, has conducted an annual week-long summer camp on the university's campus for children with moderate to severe asthma. Camp RAD (Reactive Airway Disease) features a developmentally based children's asthma curriculum that helps them understand their asthma while emphasizing preventive measures. It also teaches children that, despite their asthma, they can lead active lives. Camp RAD reinforces this lesson through such activities as swimming, soccer, karate, and arts and crafts. UTMB nurses, doctors, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, child life specialists and students run the camp.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles' pledge, its largest commitment ever to UTMB, will support a program for Texas health professionals interested in starting asthma camps in their own communities.

Called Camp RAD-in-a-Box, the program offers a variety of resources to create these satellite camps, including administrative resources, camp education workshop materials, children's asthma curriculum and specialty props, and a camp evaluation



Camp RAD campers Jeremy Dao (center), 9, and David Enriquez, 8, are blowing into their peak flow meters after a trip to the pool. Nursing student Melanie Drab helps the campers track the readings during their week at camp. Dao celebrated when he discovered that this reading was his personal best. One of the goals of the camp is to educate the children in order to empower them to make better choices when dealing with their asthma. Thanks to a grant from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, children across Texas will be sharing similar adventures in Camp RAD programs in their communities.

plan. Also included is a four-day staff-training workshop at UTMB and an on-site consultation by experienced Camp RAD team members.

Meng launched Camp RAD in Corpus Christi this past summer. A Houston

community is targeted for the next program expansion.

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that causes airway inflammation, often leading to

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### Submissions

The deadlines for submissions to be considered for the Calendar, People and Briefs sections of *Impact* is **noon, one week prior to publication**. Inclusion of all other articles is determined by the Public Affairs staff. Content is generally scheduled two to four editions in advance. Items submitted for consideration are subject to editing for style and length.

# Alumnus pledges funds for integrative medicine chair

## *Endowment one of only a few integrative medicine chairs in the country*

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

Dr. Dan Nicholson and his wife, Elaine, have pledged \$500,000 to establish the first chair in integrative medicine at UTMB—one of just a few such chairs in the country.

Established in memory of Dr. Nicholson's father and mother, the W.D. and Laura Nell Nicholson Family Chair in Integrative Medicine supports the integration of conventional and alternative medicine in clinical practice and education through UTMB's Department of Family Medicine. Complementary and alternative medicine goes beyond traditional Western medicine by including such techniques as acupuncture, meditation and herbal remedies to treat illnesses and injuries.



Dr. Victor Sierpina

The Nicholson Family Chair will allow family medicine faculty members receiving its appointment to conduct research on the safety and effectiveness of integrative medicine techniques. Dr. Victor S. Sierpina, a

UTMB associate professor of family medicine with tenure, was recently approved to hold the chair.

Integrative medicine is becoming more accepted throughout the nation. It has been defined as a therapeutic relationship in which there is a rational blending of conventional and alternative therapies that takes into account the whole person—body, mind and spirit. *The Journal of the American Medical Association* reports more than 70 percent of U.S. medical schools offer some alternative therapy-related courses, while the herbal and supplement market alone nets \$15 billion annually, according to the American Botanical Council.

Integrative medicine can, however, create problems when combined with traditional

medicine. For example, if patients do not inform their doctors of herbal remedies they are taking, the doctors may prescribe medications that, when mixed with herbal treatments, can cause adverse reactions. On the other hand, integrative treatments such as acupuncture may be useful when other medical and surgical approaches are not effective.

Under the tutelage of Sierpina, an internationally recognized authority on integrative medicine and recipient of a \$1.5 million National Institutes of Health award for creating an "Evidence-Based Curriculum in Alternative Therapies," UTMB faculty and students will learn about the benefits and disadvantages of combining conventional medicine with integrative techniques. They will also be able to inform and advise patients about numerous therapies considered to be integrative.

Dr. Nicholson, a Dallas physician who graduated from UTMB's School of Medicine in 1971, said he and his wife wanted to establish the chair in gratitude to the university. Three generations of the Nicholson family have attended the UTMB medical school. Nicholson's deceased father graduated in 1939 and was a family practitioner, while his son, Dr. William D. Nicholson IV, earned his degree in 1996. Nicholson and his son work together in a general surgery practice in Garland.

"My wife is a registered nurse and strongly believes in integrative medicine," Nicholson said. "We both believe that UTMB's Family Medicine Department and nursing school should lead the way in this evolving field."

As the Nicholson Family Chair, Sierpina would play a leading role in a proposed Center for Wellness and Integrative Care at UTMB. This center would attract health care professionals from diverse fields to promote holistic care, research and education. A faculty and student edu-

cation lecture series on integrative medicine, an annual forum and poster session, a student scholarship, information resources, and seed grants for research are all potential projects that may be supported wholly or partly by the Nicholson endowment.

Sierpina said the Nicholsons recognize the important role integrative medicine will play in the future of medicine.

"Dr. and Mrs. Nicholson's generous endowment is a major statement of the increased prominence of integrative medicine in academia," Sierpina said. "Like similar ones at Harvard University, the University of California at San Francisco and the University of Michigan, this is one of only a few such endowed academic positions in this country. With the Nicholsons' support, future generations of students, residents and faculty at UTMB will communicate effectively with patients and advise them reliably about alternative and integrative therapies. Their gift will also promote research and extramural funding so vitally needed to advance scientific understanding in this area."

Dr. Barbara L. Thompson, chair of the Family Medicine Department, added: "The Nicholsons are strong supporters of family medicine, and their generosity will bring much-needed resources to our department. Our patients, as well as our students, will benefit from this wonderful gift. Dan and Elaine Nicholson are the epitome of sustaining and supportive friends of UTMB, and we value their commitment to our program in integrative medicine."

In addition to establishing the chair in integrative medicine, the Nicholsons have financially supported the School of Medicine annual fund and the W.D. and Laura Nell Nicholson Award in Family Medicine, an annual award given to an outstanding UTMB medical student.



**Numbers to know**

### UTMB Fraud and Abuse Hotline

1 (800) 898-7679  
Your guide to honesty!

- To report suspected waste, abuse and fraud.
- All calls are strictly confidential and anonymous.
- Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### UTMB Logo Guidelines

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- Log on for information to help you understand and properly apply the UTMB Identity System to your promotional materials, including publications, web sites, speciality items and videos.

(409) 772-2618

- Call Public Affairs if you have any questions, or to arrange for the required institutional review of your promotional materials.

### UTMB Suggestion Box

[www.utmb.edu/esp/](http://www.utmb.edu/esp/)

- Have a good idea to make UTMB a better place to work, or a better place to be a patient? Log on to the web site and send your suggestion to the people who can make it happen.
- No web access? Drop your suggestion in the box on campus.

## Study indicates Mexican Americans are less depressed

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

Older Mexican Americans who live in areas with a high proportion of other Mexican Americans are less likely to exhibit signs of depression, according to researchers here.

The study, published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, indicates that characteristics unique to Mexican-American communities—stable environments where labor force participation, intact family structures, home ownership and residential stability are all comparatively high—may protect individuals from the negative impact of poverty on mental health.

Study authors Drs. Glenn Ostr and Karl Eschbach related the study to previous research at UTMB surrounding the “Hispanic paradox”—that is, the fact that older Mexican Americans have many health indicators similar to or better than those of more advantaged older non-Hispanic white people, despite clear disadvantages in terms of income, health insurance, housing and education.

Copies of the study are available at <http://jceh.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/57/12/987#SEC3>.

# Drug reduces herpes transmissions by almost half

By SEENA SIMON

Herpes sufferers who took the drug valacyclovir reduced their risk of transmitting the disease to their partners by nearly 50 percent, according to a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Stephen Tyring, professor of dermatology, microbiology and immunology, is a co-author of the study.

Valacyclovir, sold under the brand name Valtrex, is widely used to treat flare-ups of genital herpes in people infected with the herpes simplex virus type 2, which causes the incurable, sexually transmitted disease. The drug weakens the virus’ ability to replicate itself. Herpes sufferers who took valacyclovir once a day for eight months as part of the current study had a 1.9 percent chance of transmitting the disease to their partner. Those who took a placebo pill had a 3.6 percent chance of transmission, meaning valacyclovir reduced the chance of transmission by 47 percent.

“The results of this study are a breakthrough for people with genital herpes and their uninfected partners,” Tyring said. “In addition, it is a landmark for medical science, because it is the first documentation of an antiviral drug reducing the sexual transmission of a disease. Until a herpes vaccine is available to the general public, these findings will remain the most significant addition to our current recommendations for the prevention of genital herpes:

abstinence, or safer sex and condom use.”

The report on this international, four-year study of 1,484 monogamous heterosexual couples is the lead article in the Jan. 1, 2004, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The couples were from the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America and Australia.

Of the 1,484 herpes sufferers studied, 743 took valacyclovir, while 741 took a placebo. The uninfected partners didn’t take the pill. All couples also were given counseling on how to reduce the chance of transmitting herpes to the uninfected partner, such as by using condoms and avoiding sex during outbreaks.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 45 million people—or one in five Americans older than 12—are thought to be infected with the herpes virus. Up to 1.6 million Americans are newly infected each year. Most herpes carriers don’t even know that they have the virus, because they don’t have noticeable symptoms like visible sores or painful lesions.

The study was conducted by 16 researchers from the United States, England, Russia, Canada and elsewhere. The project was funded by GlaxoSmithKline, the maker of valacyclovir. The lead author of the *New England Journal of Medicine* study is Dr. Lawrence Corey from the University of Washington in Seattle.

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ing a winter commencement is far more convenient.

Graduate Heather Zissman, who was named Outstanding Physical Therapy Graduate, recalls the issue buzzing among her classmates during their first year in the program, and they eventually brought their concerns to Dr. Elizabeth Protas, chair of the Physical Therapy Department.

“We knew only about half of the class would have been able to make it back to Galveston if we had commenced in August,” Zissman said.

“The students felt strongly about this and wanted to see what action could be taken,” Protas said.

Class President Kelly Tauzin approached SAHS Dean Dr. Charles Christiansen, asking for an earlier commencement date to accommodate the changes in the program.

“I understood the students’ concerns and thought their proposed solution was a good one,” Christiansen said. “Dr. Stobo agreed. I’m glad we are able to provide a timely ceremony for graduates in this program and others as they leave UTMB to begin the next phase of their careers.”

Dr. Janet Bezner, vice president of the American Physical Therapy Association, presented the ceremony’s keynote address, encouraging graduates to use their new position as educated Americans to choose to fight for positive change.

“We can sit back and criticize those in power and continue to feel like victims,” Bezner said, “or we can choose to do something—to make a small but significant contribution that improves the quality of our lives and of those we share the world with.”

The ceremony culminated with students reciting the professional pledge of allied health sciences professions, lead by the ceremony’s grand marshal, Helen Rodgers, assistant professor of physical therapy.

Zissman said holding this ceremony only one week after the students finished their classes made commencement day exactly what her classmates had hoped it would be. “There was a true feeling of graduation,” she said.

## Nominations sought for McGovern student scholarships

The John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine seeks nominations for the John P. McGovern Medical Student Scholarship Awards in Oslerian Medicine. These scholarships provide monetary support for the education of medical students whose performance and conduct exemplify those ideals of medical practice as promulgated by Sir William Osler.

The fundamental principles of Oslerian medicine include compassionate, personalized medical care that emphasizes the doctor-patient relationship, the incorporation of a sound scientific basis for optimal patient care, and professional behavior at all times.

Each scholarship will be \$10,000 per year and will continue until the expected date of the recipient’s graduation. In 2004, scholarships, which will be applied toward

next year’s studies, will be awarded to two freshmen, two sophomores and two juniors who are enrolled and in good standing in the School of Medicine.

Nominations can be submitted by any of School of Medicine faculty or by any UTMB medical student. Medical students also may nominate themselves. Letters of nomination should begin “Dear Ladies and Gentlemen...” and should be sent to America Hayward, 2.204 Ashbel Smith Building (Old Red), Route 1311. Letters of nomination must be on paper and must be received by Hayward no later than noon Feb. 9.

Students whose nominations have been accepted will receive an invitation to apply for the scholarship and an application form before Feb. 17.

The application also will require letters of recommendation from one of the applicant’s POM faculty members, from another member of the medical faculty who knows the applicant, and from a medical student well acquainted with the applicant. An optional fourth letter of recommendation may be submitted by any other person who knows the applicant well.

The completed application and all letters of recommendation must be received by 5 p.m. March 26. All application forms, all letters of recommendation, and all other pertinent information related to the application must be submitted in a single packet. No electronic applications will be accepted.

For information about the application, call America Hayward at (409) 772-9327 or email her at [aahaywar@utmb.edu](mailto:aahaywar@utmb.edu).

# The Spirit of Giving

Each year, countless volunteers send gifts and offer their services to UTMB patients at the holidays. And UTMB employees and students join in the holiday spirit by adopting families who need a little help, organizing toy drives and providing numerous other services to the hospital and the community. Here is a quick look at some of the highlights of the season, as submitted by *Impact* readers.



Members of the University Christian Fellowship brought good tidings and great joy as they sang Christmas carols to Children's Hospital patients. Smiles were seen upon the faces of the children and staff as yuletide carols were sung throughout the halls.



Each year before Dickens on The Strand, costumed characters visit Children's Hospital. This year, in addition to traditional favorites Queen Victoria, Father Christmas and Mark Charles Dickens, town crier Kenneth Podmore joined the group.



The girls of Brownie Troop No. 538 in Galveston decorated and stuffed Christmas stockings for the patients in Children's Hospital.

Several UTMB employees are members of the Gusano Loco Motorcycle Club. In memory of their friend Steve Anthony, the group participated in the inaugural Steve Anthony Toy Run. This year the group contributed more than \$1,600 in gifts and cash donations for children in custody of Galveston County Children's Protective Services.

Joining the efforts to provide a little Christmas joy to the children in CPS custody, members of the UTMB Human Resources staff provided Christmas for 12 children who had been removed from abusive homes and placed in shelters and foster homes.

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology gathered three large boxes of non-perishable food items that were delivered by two pharmacology students to St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry in Galveston. The food pantry benefits members of the Galveston community. The department also assisted in sponsoring the Graduate Student Organization's toy drive. Money collected

from the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, helped purchase toys for a 17-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy who are in CPS custody. In addition to those projects, the department also collected toys, toiletries and clothing items that were distributed to patients on Christmas Day.

Volunteer Services once again collected gifts for children and adults, and enlisted an army of Santa's Helpers to deliver gifts on Christmas. Child Life Services coordinated the volunteer effort to deliver gifts to the children in the hospital on Christmas Day.

Every year Facilities Operations and Management (FOAM) employees donate money for children under the care of Children's Protective Services. FOAM volunteers then use that money to buy gifts for the children. As a group, they wrap and deliver the gifts to CPS. This year FOAM employees donated more than \$1,100 and assisted 20 children with gifts from their "wish lists."

"We sincerely hope that we brighten the lives of these children," said Robin Pean, administrative operations manager with FOAM.

The Department of Patient Finance, along with their families and friends, were able to provide a brighter Christmas for a family of five. Members of the department provided bunk beds, a dresser, VCR, bicycles, toys, groceries and a gift certificate for Christmas dinner at Kelley's.

Galveston Furniture generously donated a couch and loveseat along with a queen size bed to help meet some of the family's needs. The oldest child, who is 5, has scoliosis and the department worked with Dr. Patricia Beach to provide much needed medical assistance.

"This family is special to us," said Cheryl Arnold, a senior manager of patient accounts in Patient Finance. "It has been overwhelming to see everyone pull together and work as a team. Through all of the chaos during the holiday season we are reminded of what Christmas is all about."



Members of Research Services collected non-perishable food items at their annual Christmas party for the Caring and Sharing Christmas program. Representatives delivered the food to Our Daily Bread in Galveston. Pictured from left to right are Sissy Sandoval from Christ/Our Daily Bread, and Research Services staff Cathy Sainz, Anna Lloyd, Retha Rambin, Milta Gilmore, Linda Burke and Maxine Hayes.



Patrick Fertitta and Santa visit ACE Unit patient Frances Verschoor prior to Christmas. Patrick, the son of Tilman and Paige Fertitta, visited the hospital along with his mother and brother to deliver holiday bears and candy to patients in the ACE Unit and Children's Hospital. While here, they also visited patients at Shriners Burns Hospital.



The ladies at Galveston's First Lutheran Church were sewing since July to prepare more than 100 Christmas stockings for babies born at UTMB during the holiday. Newborns released from the nursery at Christmastime went home in a stocking. Smaller stockings were used to decorate the cribs and incubators of premature babies whose hospital stay will extend through the holiday. "We're happy to assist the wonderful caring nurses at UTMB," said Joyce Fundling, a coordinator of the stocking project. "We are thankful to have such dedicated professionals caring for our newest generation." Pictured from left to right are First Lutheran members Pat Gorton, Nancy Roach, Joyce Fundling and Joyce Ekelund. Roach is holding Jimaya Coleman, who was born to Kawonna Coleman in early December.



The UTMB Student Government Association (SGA) once again sponsored its annual Holiday Toy Drive. Every holiday season the SGA enlists the help of the entire student body to bring in new toys for children who are under the care of Galveston County Child Protective Services. This year they provided toys and gifts to 92 children. Among the gifts this year were six bicycles and enough toys to fill a 6-foot by 12-foot trailer, plus the back of a pickup truck.

# New Emergency Medicine director plans improvements in ER care

By CATHY C. NALL

Dr. Brian Zachariah, former medical director of the Las Colinas Medical Center in Dallas, starts his new year as the new medical director of the Division of Emergency Medicine. Zachariah takes over for Dr. Susan Keeney, who has been serving as interim director.

"We are pleased to have Dr. Zachariah join us and are confident that he will lead us to even greater levels of service and patient access to emergency care," said Dr. Karen Sexton, chief operating officer of UTMB hospitals and clinics.

Eighteen months ago, Sexton and her team implemented a reorganization plan within UTMB's Emergency Department to improve care and the level of service experienced by emergency room patients.

Since then, the department has made consistent improvements, particularly with regard to wait times and patient satisfaction, Sexton said.

"There is much more we can do and we needed the right leader," she said.

After a national search for just the right person, Sexton and her team found him here in Texas.

A native of Louisville, Ky., where he also received his medical training, Zachariah has dedicated his career to the field of emergency medicine. He has held various positions at Baylor College of Medicine, UT-Health Science Center in Houston,



Dr. Brian Zachariah, the new medical director for the Division of Emergency Medicine, hopes to begin an emergency medicine residency program at UTMB.

"Texas needs doctors in its emergency rooms who are board-certified, residency-trained and dedicated to the field...People typically come to an emergency room because they expect a level of care that is not available at their doctor's office. I think we can help fill these ERs with doctors specifically trained to provide that level of care."

Hermann Hospital, the Houston Fire Department and UT-Southwestern Medical Center.

For Zachariah, the position at UTMB offers many opportunities. In addition to giving Zachariah, his wife, Dr. Carol Redel, and teenage daughter, Megan, the chance to get back to this part of Texas, he saw it as a wonderful opportunity to get back into academic emergency medicine.

"I have the unique opportunity to take an extremely busy emergency department that is really doing phenomenal work, and make even greater improvements."

Zachariah said. One such change could include the implementation of an emergency medicine residency program. Although the department has residents working within it, it does not have a dedicated program for doctors wanting a career in emergency medicine.

There are emergency medicine residency programs at UT-Southwestern, UTHSC-Houston, Scott and White and at UT-El Paso, which has the oldest in the state. "But here at UTMB, the oldest medical school in Texas, there is no program," Zachariah said. "Texas needs

doctors in its emergency rooms who are board-certified, residency-trained and dedicated to the field."

Examples of this need are seen every day at trauma centers like UTMB. Patients with simple lacerations and other minor emergencies are being sent from community hospitals because the physicians at these facilities are not trained in emergency medicine, Zachariah said.

"People typically come to an emergency room because they expect a level of care that is not available at their doctor's office. I think we can help fill these ERs with doctors specifically trained to provide that level of care."

It will take three to five years to build a program of this type. He said the department will first need additional faculty.

Zachariah also plans to focus on further improving wait times and customer service areas within the department.

"When a person has to come to the ER, it's already a bad situation," he said. "We don't want to compound that experience with a long wait."

Zachariah looks forward to the challenge. "The emergency department is the front door of a hospital. When many people think of UTMB, they think about the ER. I want them to think the right things."

"I hope everyone will welcome Dr. Zachariah to the island and help facilitate the work he plans to do here," Sexton said.

## Perachio resigns as vice president for research to develop collaboration with JSC

By CHRIS COMER

Dr. Adrian Perachio is resigning his position as vice president for research early this year to assume a hands-on leadership role advancing the university's long-standing relationship with the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Perachio has served as vice president since April 2001.

A nationally recognized expert in vestibular neurophysiology, Perachio will focus on developing and directing a space life sciences center in partnership with the JSC.

The proposed center will aim to enhance existing research and training collaborations, and establish facilities and programs to support basic and applied research on the effects of the space environment on health.

"This new role for Adrian builds on the strong and promising relationship he's already established with the Johnson Space Center," said President John D. Stobo. "I

believe that strategic partnerships—in which organizations work to complement rather than compete with one another to address important public health issues—are vital to our success. One of Adrian's greatest strengths is his passion for collaboration and his ability to bring together individuals from different institutions and organizations to focus on shared goals. I believe this complement of skills makes him an excellent choice as first director of the proposed center.

"A good example of his ability to marshal support for the institution from diverse constituencies is the relationship of trust he helped establish with the Galveston community in the years leading up to the completion of UTMB's biosafety level four laboratory. Adrian's interactions with county residents throughout the process were key to the success of the project and helped pave the way for our success in winning

funding for the Galveston National Laboratory for infectious diseases research, one of only two such research facilities to be built in the nation," Stobo said.

Perachio also will continue to spearhead UTMB's participation in an important research coalition with the University of Texas at Austin and the Central Texas Veterans Administration, a relationship he was instrumental in shaping. The coalition, with its goal of enhancing inter-institutional collaboration, already has led to the development of a neuro-imaging center on the UT-Austin campus. In addition, the recent establishment of an Austin Clinical Trials Center will provide opportunities for collaborations among the multiple institutions, including UTMB, that constitute the Central Texas Institute for Medical Education, Research and Biotechnology.

In addition to his work in Austin, Perachio

is leading discussions with the British Consulate about the United Kingdom's interest in partnering with Texas to develop biomedical collaborations in a broad spectrum of research areas.

Stobo has asked UTMB Executive Vice President E.J. Pederson to work with a group of faculty and administrators who utilize research services to determine the steps the institution needs to take to ensure that UTMB's scientific community has the support and infrastructure it needs to achieve its goal of \$200 million a year in research expenditures by 2008.

"We owe Adrian and his team a debt of gratitude for the support they have provided in facilitating the tremendous growth we have experienced in our research enterprise in recent years," said Stobo. "Thanks to their hard work, UTMB is well-positioned to move to the next level."

## AROUND CAMPUS

### PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

#### IN BRIEF

#### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration set for Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 19. The day is a UTMB holiday and many areas of the university will be closed, but the campus will celebrate the holiday with several events on Jan. 16. Events include a lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. in Levin Hall, and a reception and program at 6 p.m. at the Central Cultural Center Gymnasium, 2627 Ave. M. The 2004 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award will be presented at the reception. The events are open to the public. For information, visit [www.utmb.edu/diversitycouncil/MLK2004.htm](http://www.utmb.edu/diversitycouncil/MLK2004.htm).

#### Library to present INSIGHT 2004 photo contest

Insight 2004 opens this week in the foyer of Moody Medical Library. The exhibit will feature photos from UTMB students illustrating their work in preceptorships, electives, volunteer service and experiences in foreign countries. A reception to honor the participants and announce the winners of the photo contest is planned for Jan. 21.

The inaugural Insight International Photo contest is sponsored by S.I.G.H.T. (Students Improving Global Health Together) and The Collaborating Center for Training in International Health. The exhibit continues at the library through Jan. 29.

#### UTMB's stop-smoking program has a special offer for new year

Do you or a family member want to quit smoking? UTMB's Commit to Quit Smoking Cessation program is offering private sessions to aid you in your quit attempt for the discounted price of \$20. Private sessions normally cost \$60. Participants receive three one-hour sessions, along with a follow up in three months, six months and a year.

This reduced price is only available to those who sign up in the month of January. For information contact Emily Riffe at (409) 747-5324 or [ebriffe@utmb.edu](mailto:ebriffe@utmb.edu)

#### OF NOTE

**Dr. Byron Bailey**, former chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology, recently received the Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Efforts by the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery. He received the award for his ongoing efforts as an ambassador for medicine in numerous countries, including Vietnam and Cuba.

**Dr. Vicki Freeman**, chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences in the School



#### Life-saving gift

*Pat Trevisani (center), director of the UTMB Education Lab, and Dr. Harry Wallfisch (right), a UTMB professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and medical director of the Education Lab discuss with Bill Rider (left), a trustee of the Mary Moody Northern Endowment, how an automatic external defibrillator works. The Mary Moody Northern Endowment recently made a gift to UTMB in honor of Dr. Jennifer Perez, a Houston dentist who performed CPR on The Galveston County Daily News Publisher Dolph Tillotson after he suffered a heart attack at Houston's Memorial Park in late September. Perez, a Ball High School graduate, was credited with helping save Tillotson's life. The Mary Moody Northern Endowment gift will support the UTMB Education Lab's efforts to enhance awareness of CPR and increase the number of people trained to perform the lifesaving procedure. In addition to providing training and materials for students in the Galveston Independent School District, UTMB purchased automatic external defibrillator units to be placed at the Rosenberg Library and Galveston College. These technologically advanced machines verbally and visually instruct people how to use them to help save the lives of heart attack victims.*

of Allied Health Sciences, has been selected to receive the 2004 ASCP Associate Excellence in Education Award. This competitive and prestigious award is given annually by the American Society for Clinical Pathology to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding performance in teaching through work in the classroom, clinic, or through development of effective teaching methods and/or instructional materials. The award will be presented March 29 at the 2004 CLMA/ASCP Conference in Atlanta.

**Dr. Patricia Heyn**, rehabilitation sciences postdoctoral fellow, and **Kushang V. Patel**, preventive medicine and community health doctoral student, received honorable mention awards by the Gerontological Health Section of the American Public Health Association at its 131st annual meeting in November. Heyn received the James G. Zimmer New Investigator Award Honorable Mention. Patel received the Betty Jane Cleckley Minority

Issues Research Award Honorable Mention.

**Dr. Pankaj Jay Pasricha**, chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and the Bassel and Frances Blanton Distinguished Professor of Internal Medicine, has been chosen to be the nominee from UTMB for the Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award for 2004. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding physician-scientists who are engaged in applying the latest basic science advances to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of disease, and to enable the physician-scientist to support and mentor the next generation of physician-scientists conducting translational clinical research.

The 2004 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* will include the names of 50 students from UTMB who have been selected

#### Outstanding Residents



*Dr. William Mitch, left, presents Dr. Arun Balakumaran, center, with the Outstanding Overall Resident award. Joining Balakumaran at the ceremony was his mother, Thilaka Balakumaran.*



*Dr. William Mitch, chairman of internal medicine, presents Dr. Angela Hewlett with the Outstanding First Year Resident award.*

as national outstanding campus leaders. The students are: **Michael Bevins, Tammy Brown, Kimberly S. Campbell, Connie Y. Chang, Lisa Coffey, Chad Conner, Lindsay Davis, Alencia Ellis, Kera Figueroa, Justin Fink, Elisa M. Fleming, Carrie Geier, Robert S. Guevara, Pattyann A. Hardt, Dana Henderson, Melissa Huerta, Rebel R. Huffman, Wendy Hull, Eken Iloabachie, Andy Kahn, Amy Kahn, Loretta Keese, Annette Kesler, Scott A. Larson, Angela M. Leeth, Tangye Lundy, Santhi B. Maniam, Tiffany Means, Peter Morgan, Jason Morrow, Michael P. Nguen, Bernadette Olivier, Kushang V. Patel, Abraham D. Rafie, Mark A. Ramirez, Lynece Rooney, Mandy Rosas, Youns Sahli, Bradley W. Schroeder, Brent A. Spencer, Joe Stanfield, David J. Strick, Monika Thompson, Shellie Tingle, Thomas G. Van Dinter, Ting Wang, Laura J. Warriner, Sarah J. Williams, Jamie L. Willits and Heather Zissman.**

## CAMP RAD from Page 1

coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. It can be triggered by infections, allergies, air pollution, tobacco smoke, exercise, weather changes or even strong emotional reactions.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that there were 10.4 million asthma-related outpatient visits to private doctors' offices and hospital clinics in 2000, with 4.6 million of these involving children. Asthma also causes the nation's children to miss 14 million school days each year.

Children who have participated in the Camp RAD program learn to recognize the early warning signs that precede asthma attacks, helping them decrease the frequency of such episodes. Surveys of youths who completed the camp revealed a 60 percent reduction in emergency room visits and a 74 percent decrease in missed school days.

Meng said the Fraternal Order of Eagles' contribution has significantly strengthened plans to introduce many more children across the state to the asthma camps.

"UTMB's Camp RAD staff cannot express enough gratitude and thanks for the hard



work of the Texas State Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the support of its national organization in presenting us with this tremendous gift," she said. "Many communities do not have the resources with which we have been blessed. The Eagles have enabled us to

make this dream of helping children in other communities come true."

During a visit last summer to Camp RAD in Galveston, Fraternal Order of Eagles Worthy State President R.L. McDuff said he and his fellow Eagles were impressed

by the camp staff's ability to simultaneously entertain and teach youths how to control their asthma.

"This camp is something we believe in," he said. "We seek out organizations that need help and that we feel can help people."

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*Here for the health of Texas.*