

# IMPACT

## Annual enrollment continues through July 31

It's benefits season at UTMB and open enrollment continues through July 31 for all employees and retirees. This is the time of year to make any changes to your insurance coverage.

Those individuals eligible for benefits should already have received an annual enrollment coverage option letter via email that lists your current benefits coverage, your options for the coming fiscal year, and the unique personal identification number (PIN) that you will need to access the UT Touch enrollment web site at <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/nlogon/sgwww/UTTOUCH/>.

- For important announcements about Annual Enrollment, visit [www.utmb.edu/benefits/acinfo.htm](http://www.utmb.edu/benefits/acinfo.htm).
- To view a summary of the benefit plans for the coming year, check out [www.utmb.edu/benefits/fy2005/overview.htm](http://www.utmb.edu/benefits/fy2005/overview.htm). For rates, visit [www.utmb.edu/benefits/fy2005/rates.pdf](http://www.utmb.edu/benefits/fy2005/rates.pdf). Compare the UT Select PPO and HMO Blue plans online at [www.utsystem.edu/egi/pubs/2004plancomparison.pdf](http://www.utsystem.edu/egi/pubs/2004plancomparison.pdf).
- View each plan's provider directory at [www.bcbstx.com/ut/provider.htm](http://www.bcbstx.com/ut/provider.htm).
- Need assistance with UT Touch? Visit our annual enrollment Lab in Room 2.202 of the Administration Building from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Monday–Friday through July 16 and 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday July 19–30.

If you have questions, call the Benefits Center at (409) 772-2630 or send your questions via email to [finance.benefits@utmb.edu](mailto:finance.benefits@utmb.edu).

## STUDENTS OF COMPASSION

### *Six medical students receive scholarship for demonstrating principles of Oslerian medicine*

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

UTMB's John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine has selected six students to receive the John P. McGovern Student Scholarships in Oslerian Medicine, among the most valuable scholarships awarded to UTMB students.

The scholarships provide \$10,000 a year in monetary support for medical education, and recognize students who have demonstrated the principles of Oslerian medicine—compassionate, personalized patient care that incorporates a sound scientific basis and professional behavior.

Two students from each of the first three years of medical school were chosen to receive the award. They are 2004 first-year students Ashley Gallagher and M. Zelime Ward, 2004 second-year students Stephen Ratcliff and David Martin Rider, and 2004 third-year students Barbara de la Torre and Ryan Scott Gregory.

In all, 64 students were nominated by faculty, employees, fellow students or themselves to receive the scholarship. Each student submitted an essay on the relevance of Sir William Osler to contemporary medical practice. The six Osler Scholars—School of Medicine faculty members chosen for their demonstrated ability to teach the art as well as the science of medicine—reviewed the applications and chose 16 finalists to interview.

"It was a hard decision," said Osler Scholar Dr. Joan Richardson. "There were so many worthy candidates that choosing the six finalists was an enormous challenge."

Dr. Lauree Thomas, School of Medicine

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**BARBARA DE LA TORRE**

Barbara de la Torre was born in Buenos Aires, but calls Houston home. In 1993, de la Torre received her Bachelor of Arts degree in studio art at Trinity University in San Antonio, where she was named Most Outstanding Art Student, and has since displayed her art in San Antonio and Houston. She described herself as a life-long learner and said her goals are to grow as an artist and to become an academician, a clinician, and a healer of mind and body. De la Torre said she chose UTMB for its diverse student body and for having the opportunity to study at the Institute for the Medical Humanities. "Medicine allows me to be a patient advocate, to nourish my love for learning and to channel my compassion effectively for those in need of care," she said.



**ASHLEY GALLAGHER**

Ashley Gallagher received her undergraduate degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. She spent two years in Texas teaching math and science at a charter school for disadvantaged youth in an emergency shelter and two years in cancer research at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. After visiting UTMB's campus, Gallagher decided she wanted to attend the institution because it struck her as "an unassuming place where students can concentrate on doing what they love—learning how to practice medicine." Of her career choice, Gallagher said, "I am excited by the prospect of serving my community while also being intellectually challenged for my entire career."



**RYAN SCOTT GREGORY**

Ryan Scott Gregory received his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Arts degree from UTMB's Institute for the Medical Humanities. In 2003 he earned a Master of Arts degree in history and sociology of medicine from the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught conversational Italian as a co-director of the Modern Language Program. He has been a competitive cyclist for more than 12 years. Gregory said he chose to study medicine at UTMB because he felt the educational approach was innovative. "After the training I've received here, I feel a much greater urgency to address historical and current inequities in access to care and quality of care in my future research, teaching and practice in academic medicine," he said.

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**Vice President for University Advancement**

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**Contributing Editors**

Tom Curtis, Jim Kelly, Judie L. Kinonen, J. Christian Messa, Cathy Nall, Jennifer Reynolds-Sanchez and Seena Simon

**Art Director**

Mark Navarro

**Contact us**

**Email:** [impact.oua@utmb.edu](mailto:impact.oua@utmb.edu)

**Phone:** Heidi Lutz

Ext. 28710 (editor)

(409) 772-2618 (Public Affairs)

**Campus mail route:** 0144

**U.S. Postal address:**

UTMB

Office of University Advancement

301 University Boulevard

Galveston, Texas 77555-0144

**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.

# UTMB employees graduate to new careers with Work School program

By SEENA SIMON

On June 2, nearly 50 employees who received financial support and paid time off to earn degrees in nursing and other health care careers celebrated their graduations from UTMB's Work School program.

The Work School program recognized the 48 UTMB employees' accomplishments at a celebration in the Levin Hall dining room on the UTMB campus.

UTMB Work School participants receive financial support and reduced work hours so they can attend classes in nursing and other hard-to-fill health careers. In exchange, participants commit to work a minimum number of years at UTMB in their new careers after graduation. The employment commitment depends on how long the employee has received support. The program also gives employees academic counseling and encouragement.

Graduates boost their incomes by training for jobs in these high-demand career fields. Other Houston area hospitals have started similar programs under the umbrella of the UTMB Work School program.

Robert Shaddox is a typical success story. He became an occupational therapist with the support of the Work School program. He was working as a full-time occupational therapy assistant and was enrolled in a bachelor's degree program at the UTMB School of Allied Health Sciences. He planned to get his degree using the tuition-assistance program available to all UTMB employees.

But his wife lost her job just as the couple bought a new house. Without his wife's income, Shaddox thought he would have to put off his education or take out huge student loans.

With support from his supervisors, Shaddox learned he could receive a full-time UTMB salary while enrolling as a full-time student. He got his degree in a little more than two years.



*Veronica Washington receives her Work School certificate from UTMB President John D. Stobo at the Work School graduation celebration on June 2. On the right is Work School program director Katie Winslade.*

Shaddox's work hours were reduced to 24 hours, but he was paid for a full 40-hour work week because Work School funding made up for the difference. He said his co-workers and supervisors were wholeheartedly behind him, even though the arrangement sometimes meant extra work for his colleagues.

"Everybody was so supportive," Shaddox said. "All my co-workers took on extra loads for me. There are just so many people to be grateful to."

Shaddox now works as an occupational therapist at UTMB. His salary jumped by \$12,000 since he completed his training.

"The Work School program was a god-send," Shaddox said. "It was an answer to our prayers."

Another participant, Debbie Marshall, expects to double her income because of the program. Her earnings will only climb higher because of the shortage of registered nurses throughout the country.

Marshall had been a licensed vocational nurse (LVN) for 12 years at UTMB. Her supervisor suggested she enroll in the Work School program to get an associates degree

in nursing and become a registered nurse (R.N.)

Marshall said she wouldn't have had time to complete an associate's degree while working 40 hours a week. She was a single mother taking care of a teen-age son at home, and her floating 12-hour shifts would have made it difficult to complete school assignments.

"There would have been no time to study without the Work School program," Marshall said. She expects to take the exam to become a registered nurse this summer.

The Work School program has helped about 700 UTMB employees since the program began in 1988. Work School gets about \$600,000 a year from UTMB and the U.S. Department of Labor to pay for tuition, books and fees, and also to reimburse UTMB for the time off given to employees. Though eligibility isn't tied to income, most of the participants are single mothers.

Katie Winslade, director of the UTMB Work School program, said giving workers paid time off means participants are more likely to succeed in furthering their education and filling critical jobs at UTMB.



**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**

[www.utmb.edu/identity\\_system](http://www.utmb.edu/identity_system)

- 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 Online Training**

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

- Have you completed your online training for this year? Not sure you even know what is required? Check out the online training web site where you can log in, see the status of your personal training requirements and complete the courses all from the comfort of your desk.

# Changes occurring in Research Services to ensure effectiveness

Whether staff within Research Services are providing pre-proposal guidance, preparing proposals and facilitating approvals, negotiating awards and acceptance agreements, or administering funding following awards, they play a central role in UTMB's research enterprise. I am writing to make you aware of the constructive changes that have taken place in recent months.

First, as many of you already know, we've engaged Jan Feldman to serve as interim director of the program. You may recall that we brought Jan in before, in 2000, to help with the reorganization of the clinical enterprise. Given her effectiveness in that role, we believe she has the skills needed to ensure that Research Services is a responsive program, fully equipped to support an increasingly robust research enterprise.

Jan is the executive vice president of Brink & Associates, a health care consulting group in Washington, D.C. She has most recently been involved with similar projects at Emory Health Care System and the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics. She has served as chief operating officer of Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and before that was at the National Institutes of Health, involved in all aspects of support to their intramural research programs.

Jan will not be setting the research agenda for the institution. Those decisions are the province of the president, the deans and UTMB's research faculty. Jan's focus is on administrative services, not science. In short, she's been retained to create an infrastructure that will support UTMB's goal of becoming a research-intensive university, with \$200 million in funded research, by 2008.

To that end, Jan is working with the four deans, associate deans for research, department directors and faculty to determine how the division should be structured and how it should function to best support UTMB's growing research enterprise. What we envision is a division that is equally effective for basic and clinical "clients" when it comes to problem-solving and communication.

These are exciting times at UTMB. In the recent NIH rankings for research grants, UTMB vaulted to 19th in the nation among medical schools. Even without NIH awards of \$158 million over five



**A Report to Faculty**  
by  
E. J. Pederson,  
Executive Vice President  
*(First in a series)*

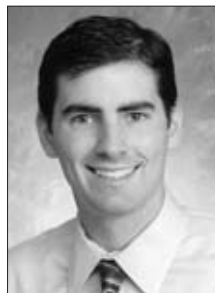
years for the Regional Center of Excellence and National Biocontainment Laboratory, our ranking among Texas institutions continues to rise. The credit belongs to our extraordinary research faculty, whose exciting work is being reported in the world's top journals.

As you know, rapidly transforming basic biomedical research results into products that can help physicians diagnose, prevent and cure disease is a major challenge for 21st century medicine. UTMB is answering the challenge by creating a Center for Technology Development, a new university entity charged with developing and accelerating the translation of UTMB research into medical goods and technologies that will benefit patients, provide entrepreneurial opportunities to UTMB scientists, spark biotechnology development in the Houston-Galveston corridor and fulfill the research translation objectives of the NIH.

The center, directed by Dr. Jim Arie, aims to accelerate the licensing of UTMB technologies to corporate entities able to facilitate commercial development; to support faculty, staff and students through traditional technology transfer functions (such as patent protection and confidentiality agreements); and to foster collaboration among the government, UTMB, private companies and UTMB's partners in various research consortia through the establishment of an Office of Research Translation within the center.

We need a Research Services office that can keep pace with that level of activity. Jan and I are working in tandem to ensure that UTMB researchers receive the support they need and deserve, and I plan to keep you apprised of all related developments. In the meantime, if you have any issues that require immediate attention, please continue bringing them to my attention.

## JOHN P. MCGOVERN SCHOLARSHIPS IN OSLERIAN MEDICINE



### STEPHEN RATCLIFF

Houston native Stephen Ratcliff received his undergraduate degree in photojournalism at Baylor University. He is a reserve commissioned second lieutenant in the Texas Army National Guard and is a photographer at Creative Photography in Galveston. Ratcliff has volunteered at St. Vincent's Clinic for the past two years and is researching pain management of pediatric burn patients with Drs. Walter Meyer and David Herndon. "I have a deep sense of conviction to help those that are in need and hurting around me," he said. "At the same time, however, I am also fascinated by the art and science of medicine, which is constantly changing and growing and requiring me to do the same."



### DAVID MARTIN RIDER

After receiving his undergraduate degree in political science and public policy from Rice University in 1998, David Martin Rider directed community sanitation, HIV and other health education projects in the Dominican Republic and served as an educator for a teenage pregnancy prevention project in Austin, where he grew up. He also worked as a caseworker for Child Protective Services. "My experiences in public health led me to believe that I would be most effective delivering more tangible, direct care to patients than I was when only providing preventive education," he said.



### M. ZELIME WARD

M. Zelime Ward received a Bachelor of Arts degree in physics from Harvard before entering UTMB. She is an accomplished actress, dancer and choreographer as well as an All-American Collegiate Rugby Player on the United States national rugby team. Ward chose UTMB for its "progressive curriculum rooted in problem-based learning and early patient exposure." She serves as the 2004-2005 co-president of Students Improving Global Health Together and the Student Interest Group in Neurology. "Medicine provides an unparalleled opportunity to integrate my devotion to humanity with a commitment to science," she said. "Beyond a profession, I believe medicine to be a calling."

### SCHOLARSHIPS from Page 1

associate dean of admissions and student affairs, had high praise for the students.

"Our medical students work so hard to pursue the principles of compassionate care that Oslerian medicine teaches us," she said. "The accomplishments of these six scholarship recipients reflect the desire of all our students to provide competent and humane patient care in their future careers as physicians."

Born in 1849 in Bond Head, Ontario, William Osler became one of the most influential physicians in medical history. He served on the faculties of McGill University and the University of Pennsylvania, played a key role in establishing the Johns Hopkins Medical

School, and ended his career as Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford.

In addition to writing *Principles and Practice of Medicine* (first edition: 1892), the leading medical textbook worldwide for more than 50 years, Osler initiated the modern residency program.

By taking learning from the classroom into the laboratory and clinic, Osler changed the face of medical education for students and residents. He emphasized the importance of caring and of strong moral and ethical principles in becoming a healing physician.

Osler demonstrated—in both patient care and teaching—deep compassion, understanding and love for his fellow human beings.

# Goodwin, More to use sabbaticals to write

By JUDIE KINONEN

Three members of the UTMB faculty recently received Presidential Faculty Development Leave awards. This year's recipients are Dr. James S. Goodwin, George and Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair of Geriatric Medicine, and director, Sealy Center on Aging; Dr. Ellen S. More, professor of preventive medicine and community health, and a member, Institute for the Medical Humanities; and Dr. Nancy K. Wills, professor of neuroscience and cell biology, as well as ophthalmology and visual sciences. Watch future issues of *Impact* for information about Wills' plans for her leave.

The Presidential Faculty Development Leave program furthers the academic careers of faculty members and enhances their abilities to contribute to the diverse missions of the university. For information, visit [www.utmb.edu/president/faculty\\_leaves/](http://www.utmb.edu/president/faculty_leaves/)

Drs. James Goodwin and Ellen More each received a Presidential Faculty Development Leave award this year, and both plan to spend that time writing books in their areas of expertise.

Having accomplished many of his initial goals at UTMB, Goodwin, director of the Sealy Center on Aging, will use his six-month faculty development leave to write a book and to plan for the future.

"It is time for me to step back and reassess the future of aging at UTMB in general and my role in particular," Goodwin said. His work in the last 12 years to enhance geriatric research, clinical care and education programs has met with great success, and his application for leave poses the question, "Where should we go from here?" It is a question he hopes to answer with a new five-year plan.

Aging has become a major focus for UTMB under Goodwin's leadership. External funding for aging research on campus has grown from \$4.2 million in 1997 to \$17.9 last year.

Three geriatric clinics have been established in Galveston County, with more than 16,000 patient visits each year. And several grants have created geriatric education programs for health care professionals at UTMB and throughout East Texas.

Now Goodwin has asked for time to visit other geriatric programs, where he wants to explore new clinical models in outpatient care and in preventing complications in hospitalized elderly.

Goodwin also will work with Yale's Dr. Mary Tinetti, director of that university's Center on Aging, as co-author of a book he wants to write.

The book will point out how the current approaches and assumptions of modern medicine often fail when applied to the care of patients over age 80. Goodwin will examine these limitations and propose new models of medical care for this age group—models he will spend a great deal of time thinking, talking and writing about during his leave.

In the process, Goodwin plans to rethink his personal research program, which has recently focused on examining barriers to



Dr. James Goodwin

breast cancer care, an area he says is now oversubscribed.

"This faculty leave will allow me the time to construct a new vision for continued growth in aging at UTMB over the next decade," Goodwin says.

During her six-month sabbatical, More, professor of the history of medicine in the Institute for the Medical Humanities, will begin writing a book about American society's attitude toward sexuality.

The book is in contract to be published by Beacon press in 2007. More was one of three faculty members to receive Presidential Faculty Development Leave awards this year.

More will tell the story of Dr. Mary Steichen Calderone, who championed the cause of sex education and founded the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States in 1964.

Calderone drew criticism for treating sex as a public health issue at a time when the subject was taboo. She served as medical director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America from 1953–1964, working to satisfy public demands for advice on contraception and sexual health.

"I'm going to use her very complicated life as a touchstone to understanding people who have supported comprehensive sexual education through history," More said.



Dr. Ellen More

More will begin her leave after completing a fellowship with the National Endowment for the Humanities next year, and her work will include several related areas of research.

Working with Dr. Abbey Berenson, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health, Dr. Susan Rosenthal, professor of adolescent and behavioral health, and Dr. Martha Hargraves, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, More will research how physicians currently approach sexual issues with their patients. She also hopes to shed light on the history of sex education in medical schools and look at the impact of AIDS on society's attitudes toward sex education.

Work on the new book comes after More's 1995 title, *Restoring the Balance: Women Physicians and the Profession of Medicine, 1850–1995*, won the 2003 History of Women in Science prize from the History of Science Society.

More also recently worked as visiting curator on *Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*, an exhibit at the National Library of Medicine. The exhibit, which includes a permanent web site, will stay at the museum until 2005 before beginning a national tour.

# ACE Unit to expand to 52 available beds

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

The Sealy & Smith Foundation has awarded UTMB a \$3.75 million grant for the expansion of the university's nationally recognized geriatric acute-care hospital unit. The grant will enable the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit to expand by 32 beds and to purchase diagnostic equipment that will help physicians detect cancer in patients sooner.

Expansion of the Acute Care for Elders (ACE) Unit, the first hospital unit in Texas designed exclusively to accommodate acutely ill older people, will more than double the unit's size to 52 beds from the 20 that currently occupy part of the 10th floor of John Sealy Hospital. The \$750,000 project will merge the rest of the floor into the ACE Unit by early 2005.

Because geriatric patients are more inclined to develop illnesses or experience adverse events like falls while in the hospital, the ACE Unit uses an interdisciplinary model of care. A team of nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, social workers and pharmacists with special education and geriatric training work closely with the medical staff to prevent such complications and ease anxiety among patients and their families. Group activities, in which patients share their experiences with each other, are encouraged. Staff members also persuade physically able patients to walk around the unit, rather than remain in bed for extended periods. The goal is to ensure that patients not lose function or the ability to live as independently as possible once they are ready to go home.

The facility, which was established with a \$3.8 million Sealy & Smith Foundation

“UTMB realizes how important it is to give appropriate care to older adults. This sets us up for having one of the premier geriatric services in the nation.”

*Susan C. Tyler*

*Executive Director of Geriatric Services*

grant and opened in October 2000, offers a more relaxed home-like environment than standard hospital rooms. Some of the ACE Unit rooms feature end tables, reclining chairs, wooden bureaus, soft lighting and wider shower stalls for easier access. Sleeper sofas are available to allow visiting family members the opportunity to stay overnight. Padded carpet in rooms and hallways reduces the risk of slips and lessens the impact from falls.

While the 32 additional beds will not have all the physical characteristics of the original ACE Unit, every patient will receive the same high level of care that has earned the facility outstanding marks among patients and their families, said Susan C. Tyler, executive director of geriatric services. The geriatric unit continues to reap exceptional scores in patient satisfaction, based on independent Press Ganey Associates surveys. Patients are asked to rate almost every facet of their stay, from the quality of their physicians to the temperature of their food.

“UTMB realizes how important it is to give appropriate care to older adults,” Tyler said. “This sets us up for having one of the premier geriatric services in the nation.”

Such success can be tied to the ACE

Unit's staff, Tyler said. Together, the interdisciplinary team members help elevate the care level of older patients through the WellDery Program, a therapeutic exercise plan that features group recreational and relaxation activities.

Adding to that achievement is the ACE Unit's work environment. David R. Marshall, chief nursing officer in UTMB's Department of Hospital Administration, said the facility's nursing staff report high employee satisfaction. “The nurses and other members of the ACE Unit's staff experience more autonomy, which allows them to claim more ownership in their patients' care,” Marshall said.

Tyler also credited the success of the ACE Unit to Drs. James S. Goodwin and Karen H. Sexton. Goodwin, chief of the Geriatric Medicine Division and director of the Sealy Center on Aging, was the driving force behind the unit's creation. Sexton is UTMB's chief operating officer.

“The Sealy & Smith Foundation recognizes the value of his vision for geriatric care,” Tyler said of Goodwin, the George and Cynthia Mitchell Distinguished Chair in Geriatric Medicine. “Dr. Sexton has taken a leadership role in making sure our hospitals' clinical services for older adults are outstanding.”

In addition to funding the ACE Unit expansion, The Sealy & Smith Foundation contributed \$3 million toward positron emission tomography technology, which will allow UTMB doctors to identify cancer in their patients faster. The technology is more effective than conventional diagnostic equipment like magnetic resonance imaging or computerized tomography since it can directly measure patients' metabolic rates. Using such information, physicians can identify normal and abnormal states in the body and therefore detect various cancers at an earlier stage.

For example, positron emission tomography can effectively diagnose lung cancer and non-invasively determine the stage of the disease. Patients are therefore spared the unnecessary pain and expense of undergoing more invasive biopsy procedures. The technology may also indicate if a patient is responding well to a specific type of cancer treatment and identify earlier those who are not responding as well. Doctors can then more quickly alter therapies to improve the patients' health and lower costs related to inefficient treatment.

UTMB President John D. Stobo said The Sealy & Smith Foundation's latest contribution will strengthen the academic health center's ability to provide compassionate health care.

“The ACE Unit expansion and the addition of positron emission tomography will allow us to better meet the needs of our geriatric patients and our cancer patients,” Stobo said. “The Sealy & Smith Foundation continues to build upon its caring legacy for the citizens of Galveston and Texas.”

## UTMB offers East Texans free education in geriatric care

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

UTMB now offers health care professionals and faculty in health professions across East Texas a free, 12-month program providing geriatric education toward a “Scholar of Aging” certificate.

Faculty from UTMB's Sealy Center on Aging will instruct participants through a monthly lecture series in basic geriatrics and gerontology, broadcast via teleconferencing from UTMB to Lamar University in Beaumont; Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches; and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

Along with the three-hour monthly tele-

conferences, the “Scholar of Aging” program encourages participants to enhance their fund of geriatric knowledge through web-based interactive modules and case studies, suggested readings and videos.

“We think this program is invaluable for anyone involved in providing health care to older people,” said Dr. Tony DiNuzzo, director, who notes that the program emphasizes the importance of a team approach to health care for older patients. Free registration for the “Scholar of Aging” program is offered to professionals in all fields of health care.

“The older population is growing very quickly, and so is our understanding of the

health care challenges this population presents,” DiNuzzo said. Participants will learn about the latest in the treatment and management of functionally debilitating diseases such as dementia, diabetes and depression, as well as techniques in functional and cognitive assessment. They will also be provided with current information on pharmacology, alternative medicine and end-of-life care.

The “Scholar of Aging” program is offered through the East Texas Geriatric Education Center, one of 46 Geriatric Education Centers in the United States, including two others in Texas. The principal investigator and executive director of the education

center is Dr. James S. Goodwin.

The center works to reduce health disparities by increasing the delivery of interdisciplinary health care services to older minorities and to rural and institutionalized elderly in medically underserved areas of East Texas. The center's target area covers 71 counties in East Texas, where approximately 12.8 percent of the population is age 65 years or older—higher than the overall Texas state average of 10 percent.

Those interested in the “Scholar of Aging” program can register online or by calling DiNuzzo at (800) 298-7015 or (409) 772-5367.

PostScriptPicture  
Common Threads Logo

# Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities

The Common Threads Diversity Week celebration returns the week of July 12–16. Led by the UTMB Diversity Council and the Office of the President, Diversity Week is part of a continued campuswide campaign to promote awareness and appreciation of diversity in all of its forms.

This year's Diversity Week will feature many of last year's popular activities, including the diversity fair, essay contest, film festival and William C. Levin Lecture on Health Care and Diversity. It will also feature many new activities, including several panel discussions and a scientific poster session.

Other highlights include a film festival, an institutional diversity meeting, and various panel discussions on such topics as religion's role in medicine and eliminating health disparities.

As part of the Diversity Week activities, we've asked several members of UTMB leadership to discuss the challenges and opportunities diversity presents in their areas of expertise and responsibility.

For information about Diversity Week at UTMB, visit [www.utmb.edu/diversitycouncil](http://www.utmb.edu/diversitycouncil).



**Dr. John D. Stobo**  
University President

We have a tremendous opportunity to increase diversity of our faculty—particularly at leadership levels—chairs, directors and so on. But to do that, we must make sure that search committees understand the importance of having a diverse faculty. UTMB must not be satisfied with the excuse that there's a lack of diversity in the leadership pipeline. Instead, we must take the lead in finding a diverse pool of candidates for faculty leadership positions, not only by developing talent among junior faculty already here, but also by being creative in how we promote job opportunities to people outside of UTMB. Only then will we come closer to realizing diversity among our faculty that more closely mirrors the population we serve.



**Dr. Stanley Lemon**  
Dean of Medicine

It seems to me that the diversity that is present among our medical students provides us with a great advantage as we seek to increase the diversity of our residents, clinical fellows and faculty. It shows that UTMB's School of Medicine offers an environment supportive of a diverse educational and clinical workforce, and also provides a rich source for future recruitment efforts. Most, if not all, medical schools have recognized the substantial advantages afforded by a diverse faculty in delivering culturally sensitive health care and clinical training, and, just like UTMB, most schools seek to recruit well-trained, successful faculty from underrepresented groups. We have an opportunity to add substantially to our success in educating a diverse medical student body by retaining these students and recruiting them into our residency programs, and with time, onto our faculty.



**Susan Coulter**  
Vice President for  
University  
Advancement

It's exciting to work for an institution that values the concept of diversity and, more important, takes action to achieve diversity in its student body and in its work force. For the advancement office, which is responsible for alumni relations, communications and fund-raising, diversity is important not only among our employees but also among the friends, alumni, volunteers and benefactors who serve as UTMB "ambassadors" in their communities. Diversity within the OUA staff means we can be more responsive to the needs of our many and varied constituents, who provide vital encouragement and support to programs of excellence. We do face challenges. There is keen competition for the best and brightest in the field, but by looking for ways to recruit, as well as ways to "grow our own" communicators and fund-raisers from diverse backgrounds, we hope to demonstrate that UTMB is a place where all people can make a difference.



**Dr. Karen Sexton**  
Chief Operating  
Officer, Hospitals and  
Clinics

In the hospitals and clinics, we're in the business of taking care of people. It breaks my heart to know that we have patients and families who feel disconnected and lost because of language or cultural barriers. Building trust and rapport between a caregiver and patient contributes to getting the best possible clinical experience and outcome. And, it requires the ability for the patient and caregiver to engage and understand each other at many levels. The challenge is in the numbers. Today, more than half of UTMB's patients are racial and ethnic minorities, and these groups are growing quickly, especially in Texas. We have to be positioned to meet their needs effectively. The opportunity lives in our commitment to support the goal of a diverse health care workforce, in our efforts to continuously improve our employee recruitment and retention, in the success we've had in "growing our own" health care providers, and in establishing a pipeline for tomorrow's caregivers. Not only are these the right things to do, they're the smart things to do for our continued success.



**Dr. Kathy Shingleton**  
Chief Human  
Resources Officer

One of UTMB's core values is diversity. The opportunity to promote this core value on a daily basis at UTMB is by working to ensure access to new job opportunities for every qualified applicant regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other differences. Support for the most open and fair hiring process possible will help UTMB to develop a workforce that more resembles the population we serve. It will also help UTMB to develop a more culturally aware workforce, which we believe will help UTMB to be a more effective provider of research, education and patient care.



**Dr. Cary Cooper**  
Dean, Graduate  
School of Biomedical  
Sciences

The Graduate School is committed to enrolling and educating a diverse student body. We believe it is important to seek students from groups historically underrepresented in graduate education and that the biomedical research workforce of the future needs much greater diversity than we have presently. To that end, the recruitment of underrepresented minority and disadvantaged students requires a body of faculty members that also is highly diverse and whose members can serve as role models for the students they educate.



**Dr. Charles Christiansen**  
Dean of Allied Health  
Sciences

Addressing diversity issues provides us in the School of Allied Health Sciences the opportunity to enrich our learning environment with faculty and students whose varying perspectives increase the quality of problem-solving by offering greater breadth of thought. Addressing diversity also provides a more inviting environment to attract and mentor new faculty and students from diverse backgrounds. Finally, addressing diversity will better prepare qualified health professionals to be more sensitive to cultural differences and who are therefore more competent to meet the needs of the patients they serve.



**Dr. Ben Raimer**  
Vice President for  
Community Outreach

Texas has a rapidly changing population with a marked increase in our Hispanic population, growth in the population under age 18 and growth in the population over 65. These changes call for a better trained and more responsive health professions workforce that is culturally competent and has the necessary language skills to provide care for that population. I believe that UTMB has a unique opportunity because our campus already leads other academic health science centers in the recruitment and graduation of a diverse student body. We have the opportunity to build pre-matriculation programs with communities and to provide unique cultural experiences for our students through community outreach programs such as Frontera de Salud, St. Vincent's House, The Luke Society and the international health electives. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to expand students' experiences as they are able to do clinical rotations or special studies in diverse settings.



**Richard Moore**  
Vice President for  
Business and  
Administration

Within Support Services, it is very important that the diversity of the leadership (supervisors, managers, etc.) mirrors the diversity of the employee group overall. Currently, underrepresented minorities in Support Services make up approximately 38 percent of the overall population and 40 percent of the classified employee group, but only 11 percent of the administrative and professional (A&P) employee group. Bringing the A&P percentage into closer alignment with the classified percentage is going to take quite a bit of focus. We are currently developing plans for an internal workforce development initiative that will hopefully improve the diversity of potential candidates for future selection.



**Melvin Williams**  
Director of Equal  
Opportunity and  
Diversity

The greatest challenge facing my office is to ensure that we can provide the necessary resources for campus leadership, who are charged with creating a more diverse workforce, while creating an environment that welcomes that diversity and utilizes it to become a more effective deliverer of health care services. Another challenge is in educating the entire UTMB community about diversity, affirmative action and equal opportunity so that everyone has a better understanding and, in turn, makes better decisions regarding diversity/business issues. By learning to appreciate and embrace the differences that make each of us the unique persons we are, we make the entire UTMB community so much more interesting.



**Dr. Pamela Watson**  
Dean of Nursing

Shortages in the nursing profession are well-known. Yet, the recent phenomenal interest in nursing as a career choice sets the stage for nursing to recruit and retain men and those from traditionally underrepresented groups. In fairly rapid order we should see encouraging results in our undergraduate student population. We will continue to face major challenges at the master's degree and doctoral degree levels. Nursing has still not done enough to persuade and to support B.S.N.-prepared nurses from diverse backgrounds to seek graduate education. Hence, this current "sad state of affairs" creates challenges for us in seeking highly sought after nursing faculty from diverse backgrounds. Less than 1 percent of all registered nurses in the United States hold doctoral degrees. At UTMB the nursing challenge will center around convincing men and other groups that are underrepresented in nursing that intellectual fulfillment and community belonging can be found here.

# Researchers receive \$1.1 million to combat prostate cancer

By TOM CURTIS

Three UTMB faculty members have won separate federal research awards for proposals that may lead to new strategies to prevent, detect and treat prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the second most common malignancy in men after skin cancer, with an estimated 170,000 to 200,000 new cases annually in the United States alone, and 30,000 U.S. deaths each year.

The three awards, totaling \$1,124,648, were won by UTMB scientists Rinat O. Esenaliev, Owen P. Hamill and Jingwu Xie and were announced by the donor agency, the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program.

Esenaliev's research proposal titled "Prostate Cancer Therapy with Novel Drug Delivery Technique" puts forward a new way of selectively delivering any anti-cancer drug into prostate tumors without damage to normal tissues surrounding the tumors. Using mice bearing human prostate tumors, the technique employs ultrasound with small particles (nanoparticles) that selectively accumulate in the prostate tumor blood vessels. The ultrasound radiation combined with the drug-bearing nanoparticles induces formation, growth and collapse of tiny bubbles inside only the tumors, destroying the tumors and sparing surrounding tissues.

The research award to Esenaliev, an associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology and scientist with UTMB's Center for Biomedical Engineering, is \$566,250.

Hamill's proposal focuses on ultimately slowing or stopping the cell migration that helps spread prostate cancer tumor cells to sites elsewhere in the body, usually to the bone. An associate professor of neuroscience and cell biology, he theorizes that identifying and characterizing the molecules that enhance or suppress cell migration should lead to new ways to measure disease progression to treat prostate cancer. Titled "The Stretch-Activated CA2+-Permeable Channel: A Mechanosensory

Switch for Invasiveness of Prostate Tumor Cells," Hamill's research proposal garnered an award of \$113,250.

Xie, an assistant professor of pharmacology and toxicology and scientist with UTMB's Sealy Center for Cancer Cell Biology, observes that only a minority of prostate cancer tumors rapidly progress to advanced cancers—the main cause of prostate cancer-related death.

For that reason, he aims to use his \$566,148 award to identify the genetic signaling pathways enhancing or retarding cancer progression to help design strategies to combat prostate cancer.

# NIH grant to provide research training to disadvantaged students

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

UTMB was just one of a handful of institutions around the country to recently earn a National Institutes of Health grant supporting research training fellowships for disadvantaged undergraduate and medical students. For the next five years, the \$428,000 grant will fund summer research fellowships at UTMB for 15 students.

Educationally and economically disadvantaged undergraduate and medical students from across the United States will work with faculty for 10 weeks on research projects funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute—one of various organizations that make up the NIH. Only seven other universities received the research fellowship grant.

Dr. Lauree Thomas, associate dean for student affairs and admissions, said the grant will help the academic health center inspire the next generation of biomedical scientists.

"We're thrilled to receive this kind of support from the NIH for the first time," Thomas said. "The organization's generosity will offer these students the opportunity to seriously explore the world of biomedical research."

UTMB benefits from the grant as well, Thomas said, because the university may be able to entice students participating in the research fellowships to consider pursuing medical or graduate biomedical sci-

ences studies at UTMB.

"This is a powerful recruitment tool because we will get to expose the students to UTMB's excellent educational and research environment and show them all we have to offer," she said.

The university supports various other programs that encourage tomorrow's scientists. For example, UTMB has hosted the National Student Research Forum for the past 44 years. Sponsored by the American Medical Association Foundation and the university, the annual forum attracts medical students, graduate students and residents in the biomedical sciences who present their research to peers and established scientists.

Another UTMB program, the Summer Science Camp, enables area seventh-through 10th-grade students to learn about biomedical science through unique hands-on experiences that also inspire them to consider careers in science. It was established in 1993 with a grant from the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund, a Galveston foundation that generously supported the program for 10 years. The camp is currently funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute through 2007.

The NIH has been a major UTMB supporter. In fiscal year 2003, the university ranked 19th among medical schools nationwide for total NIH funding and second in Texas.

## School of Medicine ranks 19th in NIH funding among medical schools

By TOM CURTIS

In 2003, with total awards of \$202,863,845, the School of Medicine ranked 19th among 121 United States medical schools receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), according to figures supplied by the federal health research funding agency.

In Texas, UTMB's School of Medicine ranked second in total NIH awards to Baylor College of Medicine Medical School, which ranked 10th nationally with \$246,410,097.

Other Texas medical schools joining UTMB on the NIH list included the UT Southwestern Medical Center Medical School in Dallas, which ranked 21st with total awards of \$173,839,840; UT Health Science Center at San Antonio Medical School, which ranked 50th with \$74,157,028; the UT Health Science Center at Houston Medical School, which ranked 58th with \$61,504,289; Texas A&M University College of Medicine in College Station, which ranked 95th with \$14,325,338; and Texas Tech University Health

Science Center School of Medicine, which ranked 111th with \$4,918,939.

UTMB President John D. Stobo said that NIH awards last fall for the Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases (\$48 million) and the proposed Galveston National Laboratory (\$110 million) catapulted UTMB's School of Medicine into the top ranks of federal funding for medical schools doing biomedical research.

"In the future, we expect that federally funded infectious disease research and vaccine development—as well as federal funding for research into many other fields—will become an ever-more significant part of UTMB's budget," Stobo said. "And that, we believe, will allow us to contribute in important new ways to the health of Texas, the United States, and the world."

Total 2003 rankings of all U.S. medical schools are available online at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/award/rank/medt03.htm>.

# Harborside Medical Group brings new concept to primary care

By CATHY C. NALL

Patient time is valuable, and all patients have needs that matter. Patients also expect medical advice from a physician who not only cares about their individual conditions, but who also knows their name. To meet these expectations, UTMB has created the Harborside Medical Group, and introduced a new approach to primary care.

## Pleasing Atmosphere

Walls of cream and green, pleasant lighting and friendly faces greet patients entering the new Harborside Medical Group (HMG) offices in Suite 112 of the UTMB Primary Care Pavilion. With a calming color scheme that signifies a synergy of the sand, sea and sky and a mission of accommodation, Harborside Medical Group promises to be the new wave in primary care.

The idea is simple—to build a practice that allows patients the opportunity to see their chosen doctor, at a time the patient requires it most; to create an environment that offers high-quality, integrative care in a setting devoid of high stress and long wait times; and to develop a personalized care program delivered by familiar faces from one convenient location.

When Dr. William F. Harper, the clinic's director, was approached with this idea, he was excited at the possibilities. "I was in private practice for more than 19 years and have been director of the internist clinic at UTMB for almost six," he said. "I see Harborside Medical Group as an opportunity to combine the personalized service found in small private practices with the state-of-the-art care characteristic of large medical centers. I am confident we can make a big place like UTMB feel like 'home' to our patients."

## Depth and Breadth

From the very beginning, Harborside



*Drs. Pamela Havlen and William Harper welcome new patients to the Harborside Medical Group in Suite 112 of the Primary Care Pavilion.*

For information about the Harborside Medical Group, call (409) 747-1883 or visit them online at [www.utmb.edu/hmg/](http://www.utmb.edu/hmg/)

Medical Group was envisioned as a clinic combining internal and family medicine physicians to best meet the needs of its patients, all of whom are adolescents or adults. Currently, Harper practices with another internist and is bringing a family medicine physician and an additional internist in later this summer.

Family medicine physicians possess a tremendous breadth of knowledge because they typically care for all ages of patients, Harper said. Because of their focus on adolescents and adults, internists have depth of knowledge about the age groups within their care.

"For families with children and maybe even grandparents who all want to see the same doctor, family medicine is the better choice," Harper said. "But say the grandmother develops chronic rheumatoid arthritis and needs extended disease management. Then an internist might serve

her needs better in the long run. Because Harborside Medical Group includes both specialties, our patients get the best of both worlds."

## Focusing on Patient Needs

Accommodation is the mission of Harborside Medical Group. Patients should expect timely appointments and minimal wait times.

"We have three types of visits here—new patient, focused and follow-up," Harper said.

New patient visits typically take an hour. A focused visit is for patients who have a new illness or ailment. These typically last 30 minutes. A follow-up visit or routine check-up for an established patient also takes 30 minutes. "We value our patients' time as if it were our own," Harper said.

To ensure their ability to see patients quickly, Harborside Medical Group physicians each set aside two slots a day to take patients with urgent needs. The hope is patients will never feel they can't see their physician when care is most needed. In addition, special arrangements have been made with Radiology, Dermatology,

Gastroenterology and other specialty areas at UTMB to which Harborside Medical Group patients may be referred. These areas have pledged to see Harborside patients within two weeks at most. In some cases, same-day appointments could be available.

Mike Caruso, a supply coordinator for Logistics Clinical Purchasing at UTMB, said he made the switch after a recommendation from his wife, Kleanthe, also a UTMB employee. She has been a Harborside Medical Group patient since its beginning.

"I have really enjoyed my experience with Dr. Harper and Harborside," Mike Caruso said. "The staff is nice, the office pleasant. I feel like Dr. Harper is there for me, not the other way around. He's very personable."

He added that being a patient at Harborside is like a partnership. "I feel like Dr. Harper is here for the long run and that my needs are being met. That's the basis of a great relationship."

## Maintaining the Standard

Harborside Medical Group is seeing approximately six new patients each day, and the patient base is growing. However, Harper said the addition of new patients will not detract from the quality of service. He and his team of physicians, nurses and staff will keep the standard of care on an even keel by adjusting staff or facilities, or making other modifications as necessary.

Harborside Medical Group currently accepts all forms of commercial insurance, as well as Medicare. Patients who pay for medical services out-of-pocket are also welcome. Call for an appointment or drop by and take a tour of the facility. The staff will be happy to show you around.

# Stark Foundation pledges to strengthen diabetes center's clinical care, community outreach

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

In August 2000, the Nelda C. and H.J. Lucher Stark Foundation made a landmark \$1.5 million contribution to UTMB to establish a center dedicated to diabetes treatment, education and research. The Orange foundation recently pledged another \$1.5 million to strengthen the Nelda C. and H.J. Lucher Stark Diabetes Center's community outreach and clinical care programs.

The Stark Diabetes Center is one of only a few Southeast Texas facilities dedicated to offering educational programs and resources

that help patients manage diabetes.

Since opening its doors in 2001, the Stark Diabetes Center has recorded more than 10,000 patient visits. The Stark Foundation grant will help the center expand its clinical services by developing additional patient education programs. Training people with diabetes to maintain productive lives is a vital segment of the Stark Diabetes Center's mission. The nationally recognized UTMB Adult Diabetes Education Program is offered at the facility in English three times a week, and in Spanish twice a month.

The grant also will enhance the Stark

Diabetes Center's community outreach efforts by increasing its participation in area health fairs and other community events, as well as including more of the state's health care providers in UTMB diabetes seminars.

In addition to clinical care and community outreach, the Stark Diabetes Center has been actively involved in research to advance treatment of the disease. The center's faculty are participating in a global diabetes prevention clinical trial for at-risk individuals to determine if it is possible to prevent such people from developing diabetes and its associated cardiovascular complications.

Dr. Randall J. Urban, director of the Stark Diabetes Center, said the latest Stark Foundation commitment will enable the center to remain a leader in diabetes education, clinical care and research. "I'm extremely grateful to the Stark Foundation's board of directors for demonstrating their confidence in this program of research, clinical and educational excellence," said Urban, a professor of endocrinology and the Nelda C. and H.J. Lucher Stark Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine. "Their trust will allow us to become an even greater resource for those with diabetes."

# Willis pledges money for neuroscience research endowment

By J. CHRISTIAN MESSA

More than five years ago, Dr. William D. Willis Jr. and his wife, Jean, established the Jean C. and William D. Willis Research Endowment at UTMB to support the work of outstanding graduate students in the university's neurosciences program. The couple recently pledged an additional \$100,000 to the endowment, which since its inception also has received more than \$20,000 in commitments from UTMB faculty, alumni and students.

Willis, former chairman of UTMB's Department of Anatomy and Neurosciences, which recently reorganized to become part of the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, said he has been impressed by the surge of financial support for the endowment.

"I sincerely appreciate all of these generous contributions," said Willis, director of the university's Marine Biomedical Institute from 1978–2004. "I truly believe that encouraging the work of graduate students is essential to the development of current and future discoveries in the neurosciences."

Willis also holds the Cecil H. and Ida M. Green Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience.

Neuroscientists study the nervous system, examining the workings of basic neuronal functions and processes affected by neural injury and disease. They also conduct research on behavioral disorders and neu-

## *Commitment will support work of talented graduate students*

robiological systems, such as mechanisms that regulate pain. Such research has led to new approaches for diagnosing and treating neuronal dysfunctions and injuries, as well as improving mental functions like learning and memory.

Dr. James E. Blankenship, director of UTMB's neuroscience graduate program, said the Willis endowment will expand opportunities for graduate students to pursue research in the neurosciences.

"Dr. and Mrs. Willis have taken leadership roles to help advance our graduate students' education," said Blankenship, a member of the Marine Biomedical Institute and professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology. "Their support will mold future generations of neuroscientists for many years to come."

The Willis' commitment additionally supports the university's Timeless Values, Pioneering Solutions campaign, a five-year, \$250 million fund-raising initiative to enhance areas of excellence in teaching the art and science of health care; infectious diseases, biodefense and vaccine development; improving health care access and telehealth; and longevity, chronic diseases and neurological recovery.

Willis is past president of the American Pain Society and the Society for Neuroscience. The author of more than 285 peer-reviewed publications, 119 reviews and chapters, three monographs, a textbook, and contributions to two other textbooks, as well as 389 presentations, he joined the Marine Biomedical Institute staff at UTMB in 1970 as chief of the Division of Comparative Neurobiology. He became director of the institute in 1978 and was appointed chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Neurosciences in 1986, serving in these capacities until this year.

The Dallas native received his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degrees in 1956 from Texas A&M University. In 1960, he earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas. Willis received his Ph.D. in 1963 from the Australian National University under the supervision of Sir John C. Eccles, who was later awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine.

Willis then worked in Italy as a National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke postdoctoral research fellow in the Institute of Physiology at the University of

Pisa. Later that year, Willis returned to UT Southwestern Medical School as an assistant professor of anatomy. He became professor and chairman of anatomy in 1964, and professor of physiology in 1969, the year before he came to UTMB.

Willis has garnered numerous awards and honors for his pain research, most recently the J.E. Purkyne Honorary Medal for Merit in the Biological Sciences from the Czech Republic's Academy of Sciences. He received the Frederick W.L. Kerr Memorial Award from the American Pain Society in 1986, and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Pain Research in 1993. Willis was also the first recipient of the Purdue Pharma Prize for Pain Research in 2002. That year, he was recognized as one of the world's most highly cited authors by the Institute of Scientific Information (within the top 0.5 percent of all publishing authors). Willis has also received five teaching awards from UTMB's School of Medicine and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Long-time UTMB supporters, William and Jean Willis have contributed to such programs and initiatives as the School of Medicine Annual Fund and Moody Medical Library. They are also members of the President's Cabinet, a volunteer organization that raises financial resources to help advance the university's mission.

## OF NOTE

**Dr. Elizabeth "Bets" Anderson** was appointed the A. Sue Kerley Distinguished Scholar at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Spring, 2004.

**Dr. Kira Bacal**, an assistant professor of preventive medicine and community health, has been named a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow. Bacal was among seven fellows nationwide selected by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for 2004–2005. Health policy fellows spend a year in Washington, D.C., working in a congressional or executive-branch office with key responsibilities for health legislation and programs.

The fellowships begin in September. Bacal, who has an M.D., a Ph.D. and a master's degree in public health, also is chief clinical consultant to the branch of medical informatics and health care systems of the NASA-Johnson Space Center's Wyle Laboratories and Life Sciences.

The **Chauncey Leake History of Medicine Society** met May 24 in the Rare Book Room of the Blocker History of Medicine Collection in Moody Medical Library to hear a presentation by **Dr. Chester Burns**, the James Wade Rockwell Professor of Medical History, about the writing and publication of his book, *Saving Lives, Training Caregivers*,

*Making Discoveries: A Centennial History of The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston*. Burns described the years of tedious research and editing required to complete the book as well as his personal reflections about the end result.

The meeting also served as the annual induction of new officers for the society. **Brett Kirkpatrick**, assistant vice president for academic resources and director of the Moody Medical Library, will serve as president. **Dr. E. Burke Evans**, the Ashbel Smith Professor Emeritus for Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, will be vice president. **Dr. Thom Pfeil**, assistant professor of family medicine, will

serve as the secretary-treasurer. Members at large are **Dr. John Fraser**, an emergency room physician, graduate student **David Kozishek** and **Dr. David Lynn**, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences.

**Dr. Tasnee Chonmaitree**, professor of pediatrics and pathology, and **Dr. Janak Patel**, professor of pediatrics, participated in the NIH workshop on "Otitis Media Vaccines: Overcoming Obstacles to Progress" at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Md. Chonmaitree gave a **See NOTES on Page 11**

# Peloquin earns nation's highest occupational therapy honor

By JUDIE L. KINONEN

Dr. Suzanne Peloquin, professor of occupational therapy in the School of Allied Health Sciences, recently received the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship Award at the annual conference of the American Occupational Therapy Association in Minneapolis. The award is the highest scholarly honor the association bestows.



Dr. Suzanne Peloquin

Peloquin, who teaches in UTMB's Department of Occupational Therapy, is a registered occupational therapist and a fellow in the American Occupational Therapy Association. She was recognized for promoting holistic practice through the development of two universal themes that represent the core of human interaction: empathy in practice and confluence in education.

"Dr. Peloquin embodies the ideal writer, philosopher and conscience for the profession of occupational therapy," according to the text of the award. She will deliver her lecture in Long Beach, Calif., in May 2005, and it will be published in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

Peloquin has written several book chapters and numerous articles in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. Her work on innovative approaches to occupational therapy education was published in a co-authored text on interpersonal learning, titled "Making Connections with Others."

The Slagle lectureship was announced in 1954 as a memorial to an outstanding occupational therapy pioneer who made great contributions to the profession through leadership, education, scholarship and practice. The purpose of the lectureship is to stimulate development of occupational therapy and to inspire participation in the profession.

Between 1955 and 2004, there have been 41 Eleanor Clarke Slagle lecturers. An award is not made every year, but rather only in those years when nominees are judged worthy by a recognition committee that reviews formal nomination letters and submissions of evidence of worth.

Dr. Charles Christiansen, dean of UTMB's School of Allied Health Sciences, received the Slagle award in 1998, and Dr. Robert Bing, the school's founder, received it in 1980. It is rare to have more than one such award winner from the same institution.

UTMB's School of Allied Health Sciences was founded in 1968 as the first school of its kind in the Southwest. Today the school offers degrees in occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, clinical laboratory sciences and physician assistant studies.



## Hospital Celebrations

A Caring Clown makes balloon animals for 7-year-old Kristi Montemayor, a patient at Children's Hospital. She was among the special guests at the May birthday party hosted by the Support Staff Professionals. Each child in the hospital that day received a goodie bag, and children with birthdays in May each received a special gift. The parties are coordinated through Volunteer Services, and a few slots are available for 2005. If your work group would like to host a children's birthday party, call Becky Saenz at (409) 772-5498.



## Sewing Guild donates items for neonatal patients

Members of the America Sewing Guild's Galveston chapter donated blankets, booties and gloves to UTMB's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Each of the items was sewn by members of the guild for use by the infants in the unit.

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presentation titled "Viral Vaccines for Otitis Media."

**Dr. Judith Drew**, associate professor of nursing, has been chosen for the Joseph B. and Mary Alice Collier Professorship in Nursing.

**Dr. Mahendra N. Gohil**, associate professor of radiology, recently was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Radiology. The induction took place at a formal convocation ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the American College of Radiology's annual meeting. Fellowship in the organization is one of the highest honors conferred by the group. About 10 percent of the organization's membership is selected for fellowship status.

Nominees are considered based on their service to organized medicine; their significant accomplishments in scientific or clinical research in the fields of radiology, radiation oncology or medical physics; for their exemplary performance as a teacher; and their outstanding reputation among colleagues and the local community.

Dean of Medicine **Dr. Stanley Lemon** has been appointed chair of the Forum on Microbial Threats of the Institute of Medicine. He also has been elected chair elect of the Medical Sciences Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Dr. William A. O'Brien**, professor of infectious diseases, will serve as a member of

the AIDS Immunology and Pathogenesis Study Section of the Center for Scientific Review.

Members of the section are selected based on their demonstrated competence and achievement in their scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors.

Study sections review grant applications submitted to the National Institutes of Health, make recommendations on these applications and survey the status of research in their fields of science.

**Dr. Linda G. Phillips**, the Truman G. Blocker, Jr., M.D. Distinguished Professor, chief of plastic surgery and senior associate dean for academic

affairs, was appointed as a member of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Review Committee for a three year term (2004–2007).

At the eighth annual Al Edwards Juneteenth Banquet, State Rep. Al Edwards of Houston presented the Juneteenth 2004 Emancipator Awards to **Dr. Ben Raimier**, vice president of community outreach, for his commitment, dedication to health care for disadvantaged residents in the State of Texas and for hosting the Texas Juneteenth Commission meeting in Galveston at UTMB Open Gates.

**Melvin Williams**, director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, was honored for his commitment and dedication to employment

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### Power outage doesn't stop UTMB telemedicine services

*During a June storm, portions of campus lost power. Among them was the telemedicine lab at the Primary Care Pavilion where Dr. Thom Pfeil, assistant professor of family medicine, was connected with patients in the Brazoria County Indigent Health Care system. But a little power outage doesn't stop UTMB doctors from continuing to serve their patients. "As you can imagine, everything went black but I got out the flashlight from the drawer and called the clinic there on the phone and we kept 'seeing' patients using the phone as our telemedicine connection, talking both to the nurse there, Laura Grady, and the patients," Pfeil said. When the power went out, Pfeil was visiting with the next-to-last patient for the day and she had a few more questions that could easily be managed over the phone, as could the last patient's visit for medication refills. "Since it is difficult to get appointments for telemedicine, I felt we could go ahead and finish the clinic by phone, not knowing when the power would be restored," Pfeil said. "For those two patients phone telemedicine worked very well and we saved having to reschedule them for a later time."*

### NOTES from Page 11

and equal rights protection for the largest employer in Galveston, and for his consistent support of the many minority heritage celebration activities in Galveston.

**Dr. G. S. Raju**, associate professor of medicine and director of endoscopy, has been elected to the Royal College of Physicians, London. Established in 1518, the Royal College of Physicians is the oldest medical institution in England, and is also among the most active of all medical professional organizations.

**Dr. Sonali Singh**, a first-year resident in ophthalmology, won first place in the resident contest presentation at the 2004 Texas Ophthalmological Association (TOA) meeting at Austin. Singh's paper on "Transient Visual Loss—Role of Ophthalmologist" won the first prize among four other contestants from ophthalmology programs in Texas. The paper was mentored by **Drs. Rosa A Tang** and **J. Schiffman**.

The UTMB chapter of the scientific research society **Sigma Xi** recently was awarded the Sigma Xi Certificate of Excellence for outstanding chapter activity during the year

ending June 30, 2003. Certificates are awarded for exceptional activity and innovative chapter programs, particularly those that address the four major issues at the foundation of the society's mission: honor in science and engineering, science education, science policy and the public understanding of science.

**Dr. E. Brad Thompson** received the 2004 Distinguished Educator Award at the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans. This award is presented in recognition of exceptional achievement as an educator in the discipline of endocrinology and metabolism, and includes an honorarium of \$3,000.

**Dr. Cheryl S. Watson**, professor of human biological chemistry and genetics and associate director for the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health, was accepted as a member of the 2004–2005 class of fellows in the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. Established in 1995, ELAM offers extensive educational, networking and mentoring opportunities to support women leaders who aspire to the highest administrative ranks at academic health centers. Since 1997, 10 UTMB faculty have participated in the ELAM fellowship program.

## UTMB IMPACT

The University of Texas Medical Branch  
Office of University Advancement  
301 University Boulevard  
Galveston, Texas 77555-0144  
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