

IMPACT

Center for research in women's health opens

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Nineteenth century feminist philosopher and writer Margaret Fuller once said, "If you have knowledge, let others light their candles in it." The UTMB Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health has officially been launched to provide a flame for university researchers to light their investigative candles. The center will offer opportunities for collaboration on research, and facilitate the exchange of ideas and information about research on women's health issues.

The goal of the center is to increase the amount of research of women's health issues and the number of women's health researchers at UTMB by creating a supportive environment through mentoring, faculty development, collaborative opportunities and seed grants for promising new investigators. Activities of the center will not be located in one central location; researchers will be encouraged to collaborate through avenues such as an informative web site and a weekly lunch-time seminar series featuring prominent researchers who will speak about studies specific to women's health.

Dr. Abbey Berenson, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and pediatrics, is the center's

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VISIONS OF BETTER CARE

Li to help establish tele-ophthalmology guidelines

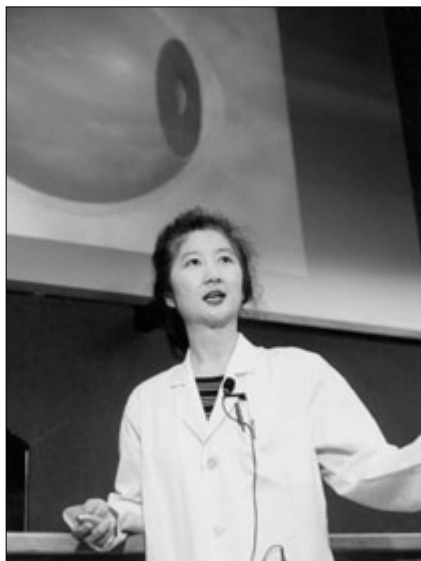
By JUDIE L. KINONEN

In a perfect world, diabetics would make regular visits to their ophthalmologist, who could detect the early signs of a condition called diabetic retinopathy long before it threatened their vision. But the reality of diabetic care demands innovations in ophthalmology, said Dr. Helen Li, associate professor in UTMB's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

Li is part of a team of scientists working to develop and hone techniques for applying telemedicine to ophthalmology—called tele-ophthalmology. To undertake more complex and comprehensive tele-ophthalmology research, she received UTMB's 2002

Presidential Faculty Development Leave Award.

During her six-month leave, Li will join researchers from the University of Houston Institute for Digital Informatics and Analysis to further develop her skills in computer-based medical imaging and bio-computation. These



Dr. Helen Li presents a lecture at the Center for Telehealth and Distance Education on diabetes and the eye. Li is the recipient of a Presidential Faculty Development leave of absence. She will work to establish guidelines for the use of tele-ophthalmology during primary care visits.

skills will be essential for success as she tackles a project funded through a grant from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Her goal: to establish specific guidelines for tele-ophthalmology, ensuring that doctors using the technology have accurate data on which to base a diagnosis.

The need for tele-ophthalmology in diabetic care is plain, stemming from the fact that some 84 percent of diabetic patients fail to receive regular eye exams. "Some of them in rural areas lack local access to an ophthalmologist," Li said, adding that some others find it inconvenient to make regular visits to two or more doctors—a diabetes physician, a cardiologist, an ophthalmologist—and to make special travel arrangements for having their pupils dilated.

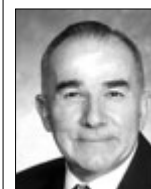
See **LI** on page 4

Our Town

A Message from the President

UTMB's financial health stable and well

This is traditionally the time of year—with news about benefits changes, talk about state-mandated and merit increases, and everybody wrapping up this year's budget



UTMB President John D. Stobo

and planning for the next—when questions about UTMB's financial health arise. This year is no exception.

The news is not only reassuring, but something to celebrate.

Four years ago, when UTMB leadership rolled up its sleeves and began tackling the

financial challenges brought about by rising health care costs, shrinking reimbursements and the growing number of uninsured, the institution was facing a projected shortfall of \$80 million. Thanks to your help, we were able to cut this projected loss approximately in half that year and have been operating in the black ever since. We anticipate the same being true for this year—in short, our financial situation has been stabilized. The credit belongs to the countless faculty and staff in all areas of the institution who believe passionately in the important work we do—those who have taken our financial challenges to heart and, in so doing, ensured that UTMB remains very much "here for the health of Texas."

Now we need to move beyond a stable financial situation to one where we gener-

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UTMB IMPACT

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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.

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director. In describing the composition of the loosely knit center, Berenson explained how she viewed the organization.

"The center is us—the people who are interested in doing women's health research," she said at a launch reception held May 22 at the Rosenberg House. "We are the bricks and the mortar. By working together, we will increase the quality and the quantity of women's health research on our campus. We'll help each other by getting together and sharing our expertise and our resources."

Traditionally research in women's health focused primarily on reproductive issues. Areas outside of reproduction were not studied by gender, and test subjects were typically males. In a little more than a decade, however, the scope of women's health research has expanded to include such areas as biomedical, behavioral and psychosocial issues affecting girls and women. Because the movement toward expanded research in women's health is relatively new, experts and data are scattered.

In May 2001, Berenson, also chief of the Division of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology and medical director of family planning, proposed a center for women's health research. The new center would promote interdisciplinary research and resource opportunities to bring women's health researchers together to stimulate, support and encourage one another, while sharing data and resource information related to women's health across the lifespan.

The UTMB Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health will offer opportunities for collaboration on research and facilitate the exchange of ideas and information about research on women's health issues. The goal of the center is to increase the amount of research in women's health issues and the number of women's health researchers at UTMB by creating a supportive environment through mentoring, faculty development, collaborative opportunities and seed grants for promising new investigators.



Photo by Jennifer Reynolds-Sanchez

From left to right, Dr. Cheryl Watson, associate director for basic sciences, Dr. Abbey Berenson, director of the UTMB Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health, and Dr. Susan Rosenthal, associate director for clinical research, visit at the opening of the research center.

good response from researchers throughout the institution. Although it is based in the School of Medicine, students and faculty from all schools on campus will have opportunities to participate in projects through the center.

"We'll be applying for various kinds of funding to help us foster research in women's health either by incubating our young investigators so that they become more successful or by attracting people who are working in very interesting areas outside of women's health right now, but whose talents might be applied to women's health," said Watson, professor of human biological chemistry and genetics. "Researchers always need to keep their fingers on the pulse of what kinds of medical problems need to be solved, especially if they're going to be funded by the National Institutes of Health. By having a group of investigators from both research and clinical realms we will be facilitating this interaction."

In less than a year, Dean of Medicine Dr. Stanley Lemon announced the formation of the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Women's Health with Berenson as director. Dr. Susan Rosenthal is the associate director of clinical research, Dr. Cheryl Watson, the associate director of basic research, and Dr. Connie Baldwin, the assistant director of faculty development.

"The energy, the enthusiasm and the obvious organizational talents and skills that have gone into getting this center up off the ground bode very well for its future and UTMB's future in women's health research in the years to come," Lemon said. "All of us in the administration are here to help you."

The center has already received a



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

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

(409) 772-2618

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

UTMB Suggestion Box

<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 shows how fish oil nutrients reduce colon cancer risk

By JIM KELLY

For years, scientists have recognized that nutrients known as omega-3 fatty acids, which are commonly found in fish oil, offer significant protection against colon cancer. Now, researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (UTMB) have figured out how these compounds keep the colon cancer-free—a discovery that may also have implications for prevention and treatment of many other kinds of cancer.

The reason, according to a paper the UTMB scientists published June 10 in *The Journal of Cell Biology*, is that omega-3 fatty acids block the action of a chemical called protein kinase C beta II (PKC β II), which is associated with increased vulnerability to colon cancer.

“If you give a cancer-causing agent to animals, what you see is that the cells start proliferating more, and in common with that we see an increase in PKC β II expression,” said Dr. Alan P. Fields, director of the Sealy Center for Cancer for Cancer Cell Biology and senior author of the paper. “If you feed the animals an omega-3 fatty acid, you blunt that proliferative response. The hypothesis was that PKC β II caused hyperproliferation and increased

PKC β II may play a significant role in more than just colon cancer—and inhibiting its action, either through diet or drugs, could help prevent and treat a broad range of diseases.

sensitivity to carcinogens, and that it was the target for the omega-3 fatty acid.”

To test that hypothesis, Fields and Dr. Nicole R. Murray, lead author of the paper, created genetically modified mice whose colon cells over-produced the substance. These transgenic rodents were far more likely to develop colon cancer when exposed to a known carcinogen than were normal mice, and they showed evidence of the runaway cell growth that precedes cancer even when not exposed to any carcinogen. Giving transgenic mice a diet high in omega-3 fatty acids, however, reduced their chance of colon cancer to that of normal mice, and these mice also exhibited no runaway growth of colon cells.

“We found that the hyperproliferation, which we normally see in these transgenic animals, is completely blocked by omega-3 fatty acids,” Fields said. “And furthermore, now when we expose these animals to a

carcinogen, they have the same cancer risk as non-transgenic mice.”

In addition to determining that omega-3 fatty acids inhibit the cancer-causing action of PKC β II in mice, the scientists also used cultures of cells taken from rat intestines to find out just how the chemical causes the hyperproliferation of cells that can lead to cancer. Cells with a high level of PKC β II, they found, produced much less of a substance known as transforming growth factor beta receptor type II (TGF β RII), a molecule critical to keeping cell reproduction under control. Examination of colon cells from the PKC β II transgenic mice not given omega-3 fatty acids revealed that they, too, lacked TGF β RII—but colon cells from transgenic mice fed omega-3 fatty acids had the receptors in abundance.

“Just as in the cell lines in which we over-expressed PKC β II and the TGF β RII levels were suppressed, we saw the same

effect in our transgenic mice,” Fields said. “But then when we fed them an omega-3 fatty acid diet, we inhibited PKC β II, and TGF β RII levels came back up. So there’s a reversal in this high-risk animal.”

Fields points out that low levels of TGF β RII also have been observed in many other cancer cell types, including breast cancer, gastric cancer, small-cell lung cancer, esophageal cancer, liver cell carcinoma, bladder cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, endometrial cancer and osteosarcoma. Taken together with the observation that omega-3 fatty acids also seem to prevent breast and prostate cancer, he notes, this suggests that PKC β II may play a significant role in more than just colon cancer—and that inhibiting its action, either through diet or drugs, could help prevent and treat a broad range of diseases.

“Protein kinase C β II and TGF β RII in w-3 fatty acid-mediated inhibition of colon carcinogenesis,” by Nicole R. Murray, Capella Weems, Lu Chen, Jessica Leon, Wangsheng Yu, Laurie A. Davidson, Lee Jamieson, Robert S. Chapkin, E. Aubrey Thompson and Alan P. Fields, appears in *The Journal of Cell Biology*, Volume 157, Number 6, June 10, 2002.

Eight UTMB graduates named as 2002–2003 Kempner Scholars

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Eight UTMB graduates will work with mentors as participants in the 2002–2003 Jeane B. Kempner Scholars program, funded through the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund. School of Medicine Dean Dr. Stanley Lemon recently announced the awards.

In 1956, the Jeane B. Kempner Scholars program was established to provide financial aid to “exceptionally brilliant students” attending UTMB, and to assist and encourage them in their pursuit of advanced studies in internal medicine and surgery. Recipients of the award may train with a mentor at any recognized research institution anywhere in the world.

Of 12 applicants, eight were chosen by the UTMB Fellowship Committee and stipend levels were determined using the National Institutes of Health stipend guidelines. Awards for this year totaled approximately \$351,817.

“I am certainly pleased with the quality of

The Jeane B. Kempner Scholars program was established in 1956 “for the purpose of giving financial aid to exceptionally brilliant students attending the Medical Branch of The University of Texas at Galveston to assist and encourage them in pursuing advanced studies in the field of Internal Medicine and Surgery...”

the individuals who applied for the scholarship and for the projects that they propose to accomplish,” Lemon said. “This is a significant and critical award in the lives of several of our potential faculty members and I can think of no finer investment in the future.”

The scholars are:

- **Dr. Buckminster Farrow** for studies with Dr. B. Mark Evers, UTMB professor of surgery in a program entitled “Novel Therapeutic Agents for Pancreatic Cancer.”
- **Dr. Kenneth J. Woodside** for studies

with Dr. John A. Daller, UTMB assistant professor of surgery, in a program entitled “Molecular Mechanisms of Reperfusion-Induced Apoptosis.”

- **Dr. Michele I. Slogoff** for studies with Dr. B. Mark Evers in a program entitled “Molecular Mechanisms of Pancreatitis.”
- **Dr. Carlos Orihuela** for studies with Dr. Elaine Tuomanen, chair of the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Department of Infectious Disease in Memphis, Tenn., in a program entitled “Pathogenesis of the Pneumococcus in Sickle Cell Disease.”

- **Dr. Jingxin Qiu** for studies with Dr. J. Regino Perez-Polo, UTMB professor of human biological chemistry and genetics, in a program entitled “Decoys’ Impact on NF- κ B’s Regulation on bel-x Gene Expression in P7 Rat Hippocampus after Hypoxia/Hyperoxia Treatment.”
- **Kasie K. Cole, B.S.**, for studies with Dr. J. Regino Perez-Polo in a program entitled “Hydrogen Peroxide Injury-Induced Caspase-Independent Delayed Cell Death.”
- **Dr. Shannon S. Martin**, for studies with Dr. H. David Shine, associate professor of neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, in a program entitled “Gene Therapy and Perinatal Hypoxic/Ischemic Brain Injury.”
- **Dr. Eduardo A. Garcia-Gras** for studies with Dr. Gretchen J. Darlington, professor at the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, in a program entitled “Determinants of Mice Adipose Tissue Differentiation.”

Employees are special when they are patients at UTMB

By CARRIE ANN DAVIS

At UTMB hospitals patients are our number one priority. This is especially true when a member of the UTMB family becomes a patient.

A new initiative, *Serving Our Own*, is designed to ensure employees and their family members receive the highest quality support, as well as a direct line of communication to a member of the hospital operations team 24 hours a day, seven days a week during their hospital stay.

"We're here to make sure that every hospitalized patient's stay goes smoothly," said David Marshall, chief nursing officer. "But for our hospitalized employees or employees' hospitalized family members, we feel we should be available to go the extra mile."

During the admitting process the patient receives a card explaining the program and inviting him or her to participate. *Serving Our Own* is completely voluntary and patient privacy is always a priority. Once the employee agrees to participate in the program, representatives will visit the employee during his or her stay. During the visit the employee is encouraged to discuss the quality of care he or she is receiving, ask questions or give suggestions for improvement.

The visits are based solely on employee requests, so there is no mass-produced list of employee patients. Should the employee decline a visit but decide later to see a



Neva Hepler, a patient and UTMB executive secretary, shares her opinion of her stay at UTMB with Michael Hill (left), Office of Finance executive director, and Joey Saurette (right), patient services representative. Opportunities for employees who have become patients to express satisfaction and concerns about the quality of care they receive is what Serving Our Own is all about.

Photo by Carrie Ann Davis

representative, calling (409) 74-SERVE (747-3783) will bring a prompt response from a *Serving Our Own* team member.

"The team wants to assist with any service issues employees and their families may need help resolving as well as hear about any exceptional service provided," said Karen Sexton, chief operating officer for UTMB hospitals and clinics. "I want our UTMB family to be proud of the care that we provide, and that is difficult to achieve if their own hospital experience here is not a positive one. If we aren't getting it right, we're going to keep at it until we do!"

Working under the core values of commit-

ment to service and community, the program is part of an initiative developed by Sexton during her first year at UTMB to improve overall patient care in UTMB hospitals.

"We felt that if we were going to make things better for all patients, the first group to start with is our own employees," said Cindy Worsham, director of patient services. "Because our employees are so important to us, UTMB should be the best place for them to seek health care."

She explained that the team sees employees as major stakeholders in the hospital and believes employees who are patients

can be a great resource in discovering improvement opportunities.

So far, 550 invitations have been issued and 57 employees and their families have received visits from hospital administrators. While a few of the visits addressed service issues and admission wait times, according to Adrienne Mendoza, director of admitting, the employees often wish to complement service, have questions answered or give suggestions for future improvements.

"I think it is very important to give feedback for growth and I am proud to be a UTMB employee," said Catalina Triana, a family medicine resident who recently participated in the program after delivering her baby at UTMB. She gave the hospital and the program high marks.

"I wanted to give positive feedback because my experience was so great," Triana said. "The birthing center was amazing, both comfortable and nurturing." She said the hospital administrator was very respectful of her privacy during his five-minute visit.

"The whole concept of the program is based on the fact that our employees are serving patients during their working hours, and when they become a patient we are here to serve them," Mendoza said.

For information about the *Serving Our Own* program call (409) 72-SERVE.

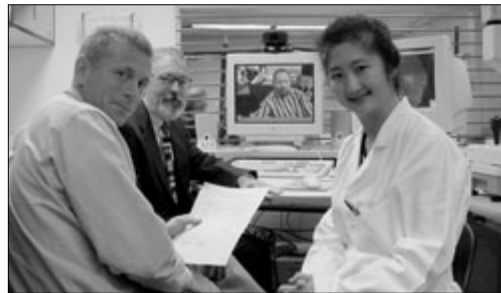
Li from Page 1

tor can dilate the patient's pupils and use a special camera to take a series of digital pictures of the eyes. These pictures are stored and sent to an ophthalmologist.

"In this way, we can take care of patients from any distance, whether they're on the same campus, in a Huntsville prison or as far away as China," said Li, who joined the UTMB faculty in 1992. In 1999, she received a \$340,000 grant from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board to advance her work in tele-ophthalmology. Through arrangements with UTMB's Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Diabetes Center and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Li pioneered UTMB's use of the technology on diabetic patients.

The problem is a lack of protocol for tele-ophthalmology, she said. "Though some ophthalmologists are experimenting with this new technology, they have no guidelines or policies to follow."

Traditionally, diabetic retinopathy



Dr. Li demonstrates a tele-ophthalmology station to Dr. Owen Murray, medical director for TDCJ facility operations, and Dr. Larry Johnson, who retired in March as director of clinical programs. Li is videoconferencing with optometrist David Appel at a TDCJ medical facility in Huntsville.

researchers take color slides of the patient's eye. These slides have to be of a very high quality in order for the doctor to feel comfortable in diagnosing retinopathy, as early signs of the condition are almost imperceptible. Standards for diagnosing retinopathy from 35 mm film have been well established through decades of research.

However, no such empirical method exists for acquiring and reviewing digital images. Older or less advanced digital imaging technology might yield an image of poor

quality, making it difficult for a doctor to detect the tiny lines that indicate early retinopathy.

The importance of good data in this case cannot be overstated. Diagnosed in its early stages, diabetic retinopathy is quite treatable. But it advances quickly and painlessly, and is a leading cause of blindness.

In recommending Li for the Presidential Faculty Development Leave, Dr. Stanley Lemon, dean of medicine, praised her efforts to bridge two of the university's pri-

ority areas: the use of telemedicine and the establishment of a multidisciplinary approach to diabetes care.

"Through continued advances in tele-ophthalmology, the technology will serve not only our own populations, but communities anywhere in the world," Lemon said.

The Presidential Faculty Development Leave program began last year, and is offered on a competitive basis to tenure-track faculty with at least six years of service to the university. Proposals for using the leave are reviewed by representatives from each school. Selected applicants receive six months of paid leave to work on their proposed project.

"Our faculty are among our most valuable assets at UTMB, and ensuring their professional development is among our top priorities," said UTMB President John D. Stobo. "The leave program is an investment we're willing to make to guarantee that our faculty have every opportunity to further their educations, careers and professional development."

FRESH LOOK



Signage with new logo goes up across campus

It's been a little more than a year since the official unveiling of UTMB's new logo and theme line—a unifying way of thinking and talking about ourselves.

During the past 13 months, UTMB employees have embraced the logo by using it on brochures, posters and flyers; on business cards and stationery; on the Internet; in video productions; in the broadcast media—even on coffee mugs, CD cases and temporary tattoos.

Standards governing the use of the official UTMB logo can be found on the web at www.utmb.edu/identity_system/.

To arrange the required institutional review of promotional materials, contact Public Affairs at (409) 772-2618 or send email to identity.system@utmb.edu.

The UTMB campus has undergone physical transformations as well. New university vehicles and welcome banners around campus proudly display the new symbol. And, the much-anticipated new logo signage currently is being installed across the campus. Watch your campus mail for more information about the anniversary of our brand launch (and a surprise!)

UTMB's Speer elected SELAM president

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

Dr. Alice Speer, UTMB associate professor, vice-chair for undergraduate education and director of the Division of General Internal Medicine, has been elected president of the Society for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (SELAM) for 2002–2003.

SELAM is an international organization dedicated to the advancement and promotion of women to executive positions in academic medicine and the allied health professions through programs that enhance professional and career development and provide networking and mentoring opportunities.

SELAM was formed in 1997 by alumnae from the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) program for women. ELAM, established in 1995, is a one-year fellowship program for women faculty who are recommended by the dean of their school.

UTMB has successfully sponsored five past ELAM fellows, and two women faculty will soon attend the program. Speer was the first faculty member from UTMB to attend the ELAM fellowship program in 1997.

After she served her fellowship, Speer said she had such a wonderful experience that then-Dean of Medicine Dr. George M. Bernier agreed that UTMB would sponsor a fellowship to this very competitive program every other year. When Dr. Stanley Lemon became dean of medicine in 2001, he put an even higher priority on sponsoring faculty for the program.

“Dr. Lemon came in and thought this was valuable enough that he was going to send someone every year,” Speer said. “It’s a competitive program, so not everybody who applies gets in, but we’ve been very lucky that at least one or two of our people have gotten in [each year] since then.”

Speer received her medical degree and served her residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She assumed the position as an instructor at Baylor College of Medicine in 1984 before she joined UTMB in 1985. She became an assistant professor in 1987.

In 1990 Speer transitioned to a position as an assistant professor at the University of Nevada in Reno until she returned to UTMB in 1992 as an associate professor.



Dr. Alice Speer

In 1998 she received tenure and also was named vice-chair for undergraduate education. In June 2000, Speer assumed the role of director of the Division of General Internal Medicine.

Through SELAM, Speer has worked with other women in academic medicine to identify ways to develop and promote the leadership skills of women faculty through networking and recruitment.

In addition to ELAM, the society supports programs designed for any individual interested in careers in academic medicine and dentistry, including an annual continuing education program.

This program incorporates a wide variety of sessions designed to enhance leadership skills, such as use of search firms and how to be a successful change agent. It also promotes collaboration and networking among its members and other organizations that share common goals.

One of Speer's main concerns is the slow growth of women in executive positions in academic medicine. She says she hopes that in her role as SELAM president she can help change the national and institutional culture in a way that will enhance women's roles in executive positions.

“Compared to 1995 we’ve moved one percentage point. At the 2001 data, women comprised only 14 percent of tenured faculty and 12 percent of full professors.

“We’re just not moving, we’re not increasing,” explained Speer, citing a report soon to be released by the Association of American Medical Colleges Women in Medicine Division.

“It has been very clear in studies that if you have diversity within your organization—ethnicity as well as gender—that productivity increases and creativity increases,” she said. “You’re losing out if you don’t have those voices at the table.”

Although Speer feels that UTMB needs to increase the number of women in executive positions, she does credit the institution for its support in enhancing ethnic and gender diversity.

“SELAM awarded Dr. Stobo the Award for Excellence in Promoting and Enhancing Women’s Careers,” she explained. “Dr. Stobo, since he’s been here, has made it a mission and has actively supported women’s issues.”

Several years ago, at the request of the University of Texas System, each campus formed a core committee on the enhancement of women and a core committee on the enhancement of minorities.

Speer says that Stobo has played an active part in both of those committees at UTMB and has ensured that they remain up, able and running.

She also gives credit to her former department chair, Dr. Don Powell, who now serves as associate dean of research, for encouraging her to apply for the ELAM fellowship. She described him as a “staunch advocate for women.”

Powell praised ELAM as a unique fellowship program that is especially helpful for women faculty because it focuses a certain amount of its teaching on issues that exclusively confront women executives. He said he hopes that Speer's election as president will encourage more women faculty to take advantage of the ELAM program.

“Dr. Speer was the first ELAM fellow from UTMB, and it has been gratifying for me to watch her executive career unfold,” Powell said. “The election as president of SELAM is a distinct honor for her and for UTMB.”

2002–2003 Holiday Schedule

Date	Event	Correctional Managed Care	Schools and Institutional Support	Clinical Enterprise
2002				
Monday, Sept. 2	Labor Day	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Monday, Nov. 11	Veterans Day	Holiday	Holiday—skeleton crew required	Holiday—clinics open
Thursday, Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Friday, Nov. 29	Thanksgiving	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Monday, Dec. 23	Christmas	No Holiday	Holiday—skeleton crew required	Holiday—clinics open
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Christmas	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Christmas	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Thursday, Dec. 26	Christmas	Holiday	Holiday—skeleton crew required	Holiday—clinics open
Friday, Dec. 27	Christmas	No Holiday	Holiday—skeleton crew required	Holiday—clinics open
2003				
Wednesday, Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Monday, Jan. 20	Martin Luther King Day	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Monday, Feb. 17	Presidents' Day	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Monday, April 21	San Jacinto Day	Holiday—skeleton crew required	Holiday—skeleton crew required	Holiday—clinics open
Monday, May 26	Memorial Day	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Thursday, June 19	Emancipation Day	Holiday—skeleton crew required	No Holiday	No Holiday
Friday, July 4	Independence Day	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Wednesday, Aug. 27	LBJ Birthday	Holiday—skeleton crew required	No Holiday	No Holiday

Optional holidays

Employees may also observe an optional holiday listed below instead of any UTMB institutional holiday(s). An employee who wants to observe an alternate holiday may do so by working a UTMB approved holiday that requires staffing. This does not include the Nov. 28 Thanksgiving holiday, as mandated by the current Appropriations Bill. Please remember that an employee's immediate supervisor must approve holiday substitutions. These holiday hours are accrued on the day the holiday occurs.

Monday, Sept. 16	Yom Kippur
Monday, March 31	Cesar Chavez Day
Friday, April 18	Good Friday

Vacation allowance

Years of service	Hours accrued per month	Total hours accrued each fiscal year	Maximum carryover per fiscal year
0 but less than 2	7	84	168
2 but less than 5	8	96	232
5 but less than 10	9	108	256
10 but less than 15	10	120	280
15 but less than 20	12	144	328
20 but less than 25	14	168	376
25 but less than 30	16	192	424
30 but less than 35	18	216	472
at least 35	20	240	520

Q Who sets how many holidays we'll have and what they'll be?

The State Legislature sets the number of holidays for all state agencies. One of the issues it looks at, and one of the reasons the number changes from year to year, is how many potential holidays fall on weekdays vs. weekends.

Frequently Asked Questions

In FY 2003, the total number of holidays granted by the legislature to state agencies comes to 15. At UTMB, we'll be getting 15 holidays.

Q How does this compare with last year?

In FY 2002, the state granted 13 holidays. At UTMB eight of those were scheduled holidays and five were granted as PHL. This year the calendar works to our advantage and we have two more days than last year.

Q Do all state agencies observe the same holidays?

While all state agencies observe the same number of holidays, institutions of higher education are permitted some flexibility in the dates they observe. This allows them to address the special needs associated with academic and/or clinical functions.

Q What will our holiday schedule be this year? Why are there three different schedules?

UTMB will actually be observing three different holiday schedules in FY 2003. The schedules are tailored to the work functions in three distinct areas: Correctional Managed Care, schools and institutional support, and the UTMB clinical enterprise.

Correctional Managed Care, because of its close working relationship with TDCJ, will follow a holiday schedule linked to TDCJ's; it's the closest to the state's "standard" schedule.

The schools and institutional support schedule will be shared by many administrative and nonclinical support areas and is close to a traditional academic holiday calendar.

The clinical enterprise calendar accommodates UTMB's clinical service mission and is designed to have staff on station when they're likely to be needed by the patients we serve.

Regardless of which calendar applies in an area, all employees will still be granted the 15 days of paid holiday leave. Employees who work on a holiday

UTMB holiday schedule changes for 2002–2003

As allowed by the state legislature, UTMB will observe 15 holidays during FY 2003. The university will also return to a more traditional approach to holiday time, dropping the "Personal Holiday Leave" designation created in 1999.

PHL was a program through which five days of the state's total allotment of holiday time were given to UTMB employees to use at their discretion, and fewer scheduled holidays were offered. Now, UTMB's holiday schedules will more closely follow those of other state agencies.

Employees will not lose any Personal Holiday Leave already accrued.

The change in our PHL policy was prompted by a number of factors, including considerable feedback and confusion from employees over UTMB observing fewer designated holidays. In addition, different mission areas within the institution have distinct staffing and time-off policy needs that were not being met by our existing plans. There has also

been an unintended reduction in leave being taken since the adoption of PHL—and an institutional concern for the impact of this unhealthy trend on our employees and their families.

Finally, a fast-growing pool of cumulative leave balances (for vacation and PHL, both of which are "paid out" upon retirement or separation from UTMB) can have a negative affect on the institution's budget—extra dollars have to be held in reserve to offset this liability.

The FY2003 holiday schedule includes different schedules for three areas with distinct staffing needs: Correctional Managed Care, schools and institutional support areas, and the clinical enterprise. These variations will help each of these areas best address their respective missions.

Regardless of the area, all employees will still receive 15 holidays. Those who work on a designated holiday will be given 8 hours of holiday time to be taken within 12 months.

will accrue that day as holiday time and have 12 months from the date of accrual to use it.

Q How do I know which schedule applies to me?

For some areas this question is clear-cut. For others, not so. If in doubt, ask your supervisor.

Q What was Personal Holiday Leave (PHL)?

State law allowed institutions of higher education special flexibility to develop their own holiday plans, provided those plans did not offer more holidays than the state-approved plan.

PHL was a UTMB plan that was approved by the UT System and implemented three years ago. UTMB set aside five days of the state's total holiday allotment and granted it as PHL, to be taken by employees at their discretion. From an employee's perspective, it afforded more freedom. From the institution's perspective, it afforded flexibility in scheduling, particularly in clinical areas.

Q Why is PHL not being offered this year? What were the issues?

It's true that PHL is not being offered this coming

fiscal year; UTMB has returned to a more traditional approach to holiday time. There are several reasons.

First and most surprising, people weren't using their PHL. Since PHL was introduced at UTMB, employees have taken notably less time off than with the former system. This was never the intention. Time to spend with family and loved ones, and to decompress from sometimes stressful jobs, is an important aspect of the health and well-being of our employees.

We want people to take their time, and to be well rested and happy when they're at work.

There's another issue related to people not taking their time: a mounting potential financial responsibility for the institution. As leave balances (including PHL hours and vacation leave) accumulated at an alarming rate, additional funds were needed in reserve to offset this liability. Like vacation time, PHL gets "paid out" when an employee retires or leaves the university.

As an institution, we've worked hard to get ourselves on a solid financial footing. Any business practice that could jeopardize this was worth reconsideration.

Finally, PHL was often a source of confusion and

discontent. Each year, significant energy went into explaining the program and why we (and a few others) followed a different holiday schedule than the rest of the state. Many will likely recall the outcry over the holidays this past December, when only Christmas Day was an officially scheduled holiday and the expectation was that PHL would be used for some of the rest.

Q If we lose PHL, are we getting fewer holidays than other state employees?

No. The five holidays that had formally been granted as PHL will now be moved back to the regular holiday schedule. Like all other state employees, UTMB employees will get 15 holidays in FY 2003.

Q What will happen to PHL I've already accrued?

It'll be frozen at its current level as of the end of this fiscal year. It will be available to you to use at your discretion (which you'll hopefully do). If you retire or leave the university, it will be paid out to you. However, you will not accrue any additional PHL as of Sept. 1, 2002.

Q What will happen at Christmas this year?

It depends on the schedule in effect in your area. Correctional Managed Care will be closed three days; academic and support areas will be closed Christmas week; and UTMB clinics will be closed two days and accrue three holidays. The hospitals of course will remain open on all holidays. Some areas will require skeleton crews to provide support for the clinical enterprise.

Any employee required to work on a holiday will accrue eight hours of holiday time to be used within 12 months following the holiday.

Q Are there any alternate holidays next year?

Yes, three: Yom Kippur (Sept. 16), Cesar Chavez Day (March 31) and Good Friday (April 18). Employees may observe these holidays by working a UTMB approved "regular" holiday that requires staffing, excluding the Nov. 28 Thanksgiving holiday. Please remember to check with your supervisor for approval when you want to substitute a holiday.

Q Have vacation accrual rates changed? What about maximum carryovers?

No. Vacation hours will be accrued at the same rates as in FY 2002, and the total number of vacation hours an employee can carry over from one year to the next has stayed the same. Details are in the charts to the left.

Need is high for summer blood donations

By JENNIFER REYNOLDS-SANCHEZ

The summer months have arrived, meaning more people are on vacations and more people are likely to be in accidents. This creates a higher need for blood transfusions. But the region is experiencing a shortage in blood supplies that is expected to last through early fall.

The UTMB Blood Bank is asking for your help with this blood shortage.

Every three seconds someone in the United States needs blood, but only 5 percent of those eligible to give blood actually take the time to donate.

Donating blood is a simple and relatively painless procedure that can take place in less than an hour. The first step to making a donation is calling the UTMB Blood Bank at (409) 772-4861 to make an appointment. The blood bank is open 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday.

Upon arrival you will be asked to fill out a donor card. A staff member will meet with you privately to evaluate your medical history; check your pulse, temperature and blood pressure; and test your blood to determine eligibility. Actually donating blood typically takes less than 10 minutes.

The UTMB Blood Bank supplies blood components to UTMB hospitals and the Shriners Burns Hospital. Approximately 1,500 donations are needed every month to ensure that blood will be available for patients who are scheduled for surgery as well as patients who are rushed here because of an accident or injury. In cases of a shortage, UTMB must purchase blood from outside sources, but often this outside blood is not available.

During a regional shortage, blood supplies may be too low to fill our needs. However, if every eligible donor at UTMB and Shriners gave blood only three times per year, the institution would have an adequate and continuous supply.

For information about donating blood, go to www2.utmb.edu/bb, or call (409) 772-4861.

Employees can enter contest to name UTMB speakers bureau

Got the gift of gab? Looking for an outlet for your creative energy? Always thought you could be the No. 1 Namer at one of those firms that make up brand names like Acura, Nuprin or Bowflex?

Well, now's your chance to walk the walk so we can talk the talk. The UTMB speakers bureau is looking for a snappy new name and you might just have it.

One of UTMB's best resources is information—Information about the changes taking place in health care; information about medical advances and staying health; and information about other health-related topics near and dear to the hearts of our faculty and professional staff.

The UTMB speakers bureau is one of the many ways members of the university community share their expertise with others outside of UTMB. It coordinates presentations made to community groups by UTMB faculty and staff on a wide variety of health-related topics.

Submit as many entries as you like. The winning entry will receive a “lavish showcase” of UTMB merchandise, including a one-of-a-kind UTMB logo watch.

Put on your creativity cap and give us your best suggestions. We know that winning name is out there somewhere, just waiting to be heard.

To enter, go to www.utmb.edu/speakers and give us your suggestions for a new name. You can also send your entries via campus mail to “Look Who’s Talking” at mail route 0144. Or, fax your entry to (409) 772-6216.

All entries are due by 5 p.m. July 12. Entries received after this time will not be accepted. Participants may submit multiple entries.

The winner will be chosen on July 19 and notified promptly. All decisions regarding the winner are final.

“Look Who’s Talking” will not be considered a valid entry.

IN BRIEF

Bookstore opens uniform shop at Rebecca Sealy

In answer to a demand for better availability of uniforms, the campus bookstore is opening a uniform shop. The store, in Room 1.134 of Rebecca Sealy Hospital, tentatively is scheduled to open June 24. It will feature a variety of sizes and styles of scrubs and other hospital uniforms.

In addition, the store will offer clogs and other suitable work shoes, stethoscopes and badge holders. Minor alteration services also will be available.

To accommodate most hospital shifts, the store will initially be open 7 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday–Friday. For information, call (409) 772-1939 or send email to bcristel@utmb.edu.

Mini Medical School returns to Clear Lake area in August

UTMB once again will offer Mini Medical School in the Clear Lake area. Weekly classes will be presented Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at Space Center Houston. Topics include women's health and cancer, surgery, Alzheimer's Disease and hepatitis.

Registration will begin in July. Look for details soon in Daily Announcements, or contact Nathalie Mangold in the Office of Community Outreach at nrmangol@utmb.edu or (409) 747-8192. To learn about the program visit www.utmb.edu/minimed.

Federal Work-Study jobs should be requested now

It is time to prepare for the 2002–2003 Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program. If you are

See BRIEFS on page 9

School of Medicine graduation features first formal commissioning ceremony

Thirteen graduating seniors were commissioned officers at a special ceremony held immediately following the 2002 School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony on May 25. This year marked the first formal military commissioning ceremony at graduation.

Families, friends and individuals from each branch of the military gathered to honor the graduating medical officers.

Capt. Joshua Sill, president of the Military Medical Student Association (MMSA), gave the welcome, and Lt. Matthew Pflipsen, vice president of the MMSA, introduced the officers. Graduates were sworn in by UTMB faculty member Dr. John Hegggers, lieutenant colonel, medical service, U.S. Army, retired, or by a military family member or friend. Family members participated in the ceremony by “pinning new bars” on the graduates.

GRADUATING MEDICAL OFFICERS AND RESIDENCY ASSIGNMENTS

Navy Lt. Christopher Bloomer
Internal Medicine
National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Army Capt. Kim Blumberg
Anesthesiology
Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Air Force Capt. Erika Gonzalez
Pediatrics
Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Army Capt. Kimberly Kehoe
Transitional Year

Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii

Army Capt. Anthony Martinez
Family Medicine
Fort Bragg, N.C.

Army Capt. Shaili Matta
Pediatrics, Deferred
Austin Medical Education Programs, Texas

Navy Lt. Matthew Muller
General Surgery
Naval Medical Center, San Diego, Calif.

Air Force Capt. Shawn Derrek Nichols
General Surgery
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Navy Lt. William Nguyen
Surgery, Deferred
Texas Tech University, El Paso

Air Force Capt. Lilane Reifenberg
Emergency Medicine, Deferred
University of Florida, Jacksonville

Air Force Capt. John Renshaw
Internal Medicine
Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas

Air Force Capt. Joshua Sill
Internal Medicine
Travis Air Force Base, Calif.

Capt. Ivette Suber, Air Force
OB/GYN, Deferred
Texas Tech University, El Paso

BRIEFS from Page 8

interested in posting a position for UTMB students, go to www2.utmb.edu/finaid/employer.htm. Print and complete the FWS Policy and Departmental Job Request Form and forward it to Carol Cromie at Route 1312. Or, send it via fax to (409) 772-4466.

More than a half million pounds of paper diverted from landfills

The UTMB Resource Conservation Initiative has another success story to tell with its first quarter recycle figure of 602,000 pounds of paper and cardboard diverted from local landfills. That's the equivalent of saving of 5,117 trees from destruction. Of course, it takes everyone's efforts to make this possible.

To help save even more, anyone can follow these tips and guidelines:

- Only paper should be put in recycle bags. (Plastic and aluminum should be recycled by other methods.)
- Junk mail, staples and paper clips are acceptable.
- Please do not tie knots in the bags' drawstrings.
- Bags must weigh less than 40 pounds for pick up to prevent injury.
- If your recycle rack breaks, place the pieces in a recycle bag and place with the bags for pick up. Reorder your free rack through Logistics.
- Flatten empty cardboard boxes and place in your hallway for pick up.

For information, call Ken Steblein at (409) 772-5026.

AAMC seeks applications for women faculty development

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is calling for applicants for its Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar, Dec. 14-17 in Santa Fe, N.M. The seminar is designed for women early in their first faculty appointment who are aiming for a position of leadership in academic medicine. Associate professors are not eligible.

Any woman faculty interested in applying for this program should submit a one-page summary of her goals for the seminar and how it will impact her career, a copy of her curriculum vitae and a letter of support from her chair or division chief addressed to the Meetings Registrar, AAMC. The letter should describe how the applicant's goals for attending the seminar relate to her work and professional aspirations. The applications should be sent by July 19 to the Office of the Dean of Medicine, Attention: Linda G. Phillips, M.D., senior associate dean for academic affairs.

The Office of the Dean of Medicine will provide financial support for the registration fee, travel and other related expenses for up to two

Camp RAD



Camp RAD, which stands for reactive airway disease, is a summer day camp designed for children with moderate to severe asthma. Campers ages 7-12 learn to manage their asthma while spending a week enjoying camp activities such as swimming, soccer, skits and the Internet. Above, Sabrina Cimrhanel, 12, is pictured checking her peak flow meter reading following an afternoon of swimming at the UTMB Field House. Empowering the children and showing them how to make better choices when dealing with their asthma is a fundamental part of Camp RAD. After a day of arts and crafts, martial arts and skit rehearsal, Michaela Koenning, 7, pictured to the left, enjoyed playing soccer with the other campers at Camp RAD. She said swimming was her favorite activity because she learned at camp there are several Olympic swimmers who also have asthma.

Photos by Carrie Ann Davis

members of the medical faculty who would like to complete this training.

Nominations sought for clinical scientist awards

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund has invited the School of Medicine to nominate up to two candidates for the fund's Clinical Scientist Awards in Translational Research. Awards of more than \$750,000 over five years are intended to foster the development, productivity and mentoring capacity of established independent physician-scientists who will strengthen translational research. Eligible applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of the United State or Canada, must have an M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree and must hold an appointment or joint appointment in a subspecialty of clinical medicine.

Candidates must be academic investigators at the late assistant professor or associate

professor level, holding a tenure-track or equivalent position at the time of application. Individuals holding the rank of professor will not be eligible. If you or someone you know is interested in applying for this program, submit a description of the proposed research, a copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae and a letter of support from the applicant's chair or division chief.

Submit the application by July 17 to the Office of the Dean of Medicine, Attention: Linda G. Phillips, M.D., senior associate dean for Academic Affairs. A selection committee will be formed to review applications for this award.

For information, visit www.bwfund.org.

OF NOTE

At the 32nd annual meeting of the American Osler Society in Kansas City this spring, members elected **Dr. Chester R. Burns**, the James Wade Rockwell Professor of Medical



Photo by Christian Messa

Dr. Randall Urban, left, director of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Diabetes Center and chief of the Division of Endocrinology, accepts the Pfizer Scholars in Endocrinology Award from Paul Lacy, a Pfizer institutional health care representative. Urban accepted the award on behalf of Dr. Rakesh Patel, who was attending a conference at the time. Patel is a fellow in the Division of Endocrinology who received the award for demonstrating exceptional patient care. In addition to the award, Patel earned a \$1,500 continuing education stipend.



Chester Burns

History at UTMB, as their second vice-president. Burns has been a member of this Society for 30 years. He will become president in the spring of 2004 when the Society holds its annual meeting in Houston and Galveston. The American Osler Society was

organized in 1970. Dr. John P. McGovern, one of its founders, gave \$5 million to UTMB last year to establish the John P. McGovern, M.D. Academy of Oslerian Medicine.

● **Dr. Jeffrey R. Davis**, director of Preventive, Occupational and Environmental Medicine (POEM), is co-editor of the recently published textbook *Fundamentals of Aerospace Medicine* (Lippincott Williams and Wilkins). Dr. Roy L. Dehart of Vanderbilt is his co-editor. The book provides comprehensive, clinically relevant information on the wide-ranging field of aerospace medicine.

● **Dr. Steve Eggleston** and **Dr. Lynanne Foster**, both orthopaedic surgery residents, recently attended the 39th annual Musculoskeletal Pathology Seminar in Marineland, Fla. Their team won first place in diagnostic/management problem solving.

See BRIEFS on page 10

Mainous receives Ohio State distinguished alumni award

By Jennifer Reynolds-Sanchez

Dr. Elgene G. Mainous, chief of UTMB's Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and inaugural holder of the Carl E. Schow Jr. Chair, recently was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award from Ohio State University. The award recognizes alumni who display good moral character and have made outstanding contributions to art, science, dentistry or public service, or outstanding service or contributions to Ohio State University.

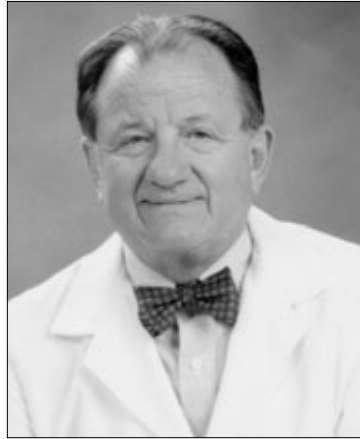
Mainous graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, in 1952 and received his Doctor of Dental Science degree from Ohio State in 1956. He then decided to continue his dental education in the Navy.

"The Navy had excellent programs and they had excellent people running their programs," Mainous said. "We had first-class training facilities."

After his training, Mainous served as head of the oral surgery department at the Naval Dental Center in San Diego until 1968, when he left for Vietnam to treat soldiers who had been wounded in the face by missiles.

Mainous describes his tour in Vietnam as the highlight of his career, but says that nothing could have prepared him for what he experienced after he arrived in Vietnam. Before he left the United States he studied all the medical literature he could find on treating the types of wounds he imagined he would be faced with, but the only articles available were based on weapons used during World War II.

"I reviewed all the articles I could on the treatment of these missile wounds, but when I got there it was a completely different situation," Mainous said.



Dr. Elgene G. Mainous

He served in the field with the I-Corps, the northern-most corps in Vietnam, during the most active part of the war. He worked in the field and also on a hospital ship and was often one of the first to treat wounded soldiers. Because there was no literature available regarding the modern weapons used in Vietnam, Mainous had to rely on his skills as a surgeon and the facilities that were available to him to give the wounded the best care he could.

"It's amazing," Mainous said. "Even in those conditions, you had fancy, modern facilities."

After serving 13 months in the war, Mainous returned to California, where he and some of his colleagues promptly got to work writing a book about the types of wounds modern weapons can inflict and how to treat them. The book was sponsored by the Bureau of Medicine Surgery

and was distributed to NATO countries. The book is still used today as a handbook for treating missile wounds.

After his return to San Diego, Mainous was also able to perform reconstructive surgery on some of the soldiers he administered early care to in Vietnam.

Mainous says his military career was fulfilling and that he wouldn't change anything. He received the Navy Commendation Medal, which gives recognition for distinguished heroism, outstanding achievement or meritorious service, and he prides himself on what he accomplished during his time in Vietnam.

"I've talked to people I served with in Vietnam," he said. "Even though it wasn't the greatest place to be, the camaraderie and what you accomplished there was very fulfilling. If I had to choose the most meaningful duty that I had during my 20 year military career, I would pick that year in Vietnam because of what we were able to accomplish."

Mainous retired from the Navy in 1975 as a captain. He was professor and head of graduate education in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in the mid-1970s. He later joined the University of Mississippi as professor and chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and subsequently served in a similar position at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. He joined UTMB in 1989.

In 1992, after receiving permission from then-UTMB President Thomas James and the UT Board of Regents, Mainous began raising \$500,000 for an endowed chair for the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

"All the different divisions in the department of surgery had distinguished endowed chairs," Mainous said. "We were such a small division that we didn't have a chair."

In March 2000, Mainous was announced as the initial holder of the Carl E. Schow Jr. Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The chair's namesake, Dr. Carl E. Schow Jr., preceded Mainous as the chief of the division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

"I'd call that my greatest accomplishment in my civilian academic career," Mainous said.

In a letter to UT Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. Charles B. Mullins requesting the appointment of Mainous as the initial holder of the chair, UTMB Dean of Medicine Dr. Stanley M. Lemon and President John D. Stobo described him as an "outstanding administrator, surgeon, teacher and researcher."

"Dr. Mainous has provided strong leadership and is respected by his colleagues and students," stated the letter. "His many and significant contributions to medicine attest to his excellent reputation."

Mainous says he is flattered by receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, but what he enjoys the most is watching the residents he trains go out and become successful oral maxillofacial surgeons. The four-year residency program for his division accepts only one resident per year, giving Mainous a total of four residents to train each year.

"They're more than just students—they become good friends," he said. "The relationships you have with the residents that leave you are very special—I probably get calls every week from about five or six residents. They keep you going."

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Dr. W. Robert Fleischmann, Jr., professor of microbiology and immunology, has been nominated for the 2002 Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award. The School of Medicine was invited to nominate one faculty member for this award which recognizes significant contributions to medical education made by gifted teachers. Nominations for this award included broad student participation and the peer judgment of faculty colleagues as well as review by an internal selection committee.

The Office of Educational Development has a long and respected tradition of accepting international fellows to participate in and learn from the educational programs at UTMB. Currently, one of the international fellows in OED is **Dr. Yanfei Liu** sponsored by the World Health Organization. Liu is deputy general director of the Ministry of Health for China. He is responsible for medical science, technology and educational planning; the design and the implementation of national research programs; management of national labs; and medical education and training programs. His specific focus at UTMB is our educational programs and

assessment techniques applicable to development of a national licensing examination in China.

Dr. Adrian A. Perachio, professor and vice president for research, recently was appointed to a four-year term on the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council. Watch future issues of *Impact* for a story about Perachio's work on the council.

Bob Skaggs, academic consultant, has completed a Master of Education degree in

Educational Technology from the University of Texas at Brownsville. Skaggs was a member of the first class to enter the UT Telecampus M.Ed. program in the fall of 1999 which provided the entire degree program through distance learning courses at UT component campuses. He graduates with a 4.0 grade point average for all courses taken in the program.

June 1–5, several representatives from UTMB attended the American Telemedicine Association's annual conference in Los Angeles. Various members of the UTMB community

See BRIEFS on page 11

AROUND CAMPUS

PEOPLE, NEWS AND EVENTS

BRIEFS from Page 10

hosted several presentations showcasing UTMB's cutting edge telemedicine projects and applications. The type of services and number of telemedicine consults UTMB provides far surpasses the other telemedicine programs that were at the conference. The UTMB speakers and subjects presented were:

- **Dr. Ben Raimer**—"Telemedicine in the Workplace Can Increase Productivity and Reduce Costs"
- **Dr. Helen Li**—"Data Sharing in Store-and-Forward Telemedicine Evaluation of Diabetic Retinopathy Information in a Diabetes Center"
- **Dr. Jennifer Raley**—"Telemedicine in Practice"
- **Dr. Oscar Boultinghouse**—"Telemedicine's Role in Homeland Defense"
- **Dr. Nancy Speck**—"Linkages for Increasing Access to Psychiatric Care in Rural MUA"
- **Scott Hermstein**—"Cruising with Telemedicine; Providing Health Care to a Moving Target"

A poster presentation titled "TEC-EYE-Course: On-line Training in Telemedicine for Eye Care Providers" also was given by **Dr. Rosa Tang**.

Lee appointed interim director at structural biology center

Dr. James C. Lee was appointed as interim director of the Sealy Center for Structural Biology effective June 1.

Lee joined the UTMB faculty in 1990 as professor and holder of The Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair in Chemistry in the Department of Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics. He served as vice chair of the department from September 1994–August 1997.

He is an internationally recognized physical chemist with a distinguished

scientific record. He will succeed Dr. David Gorenstein, the founding director of the center and now associate dean for research in the School of Medicine.

Under Gorenstein's leadership, structural biology has become deeply woven into the fabric of biomedical research at UTMB. Lee will build on that tradition, while sharpening the focus of research efforts within the center.

A national search will be conducted for a permanent director for the center.

●
Linda S. Sobolak has been appointed director in the Office of Clinical Research. Sobolak comes to UTMB from Valentis in Burlingame, Calif., where she served as director of clinical operations. She has worked for several pharmaceutical and biotech organizations, and

has frequently worked with academically based investigators. Sobolak has a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

In the May 3 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, UTMB was mentioned as a key player in a University of Texas initiative to make telemedicine available in Puebla, Mexico. "The project will rely heavily on technical assistance from UTMB, which is a leader in providing medical expertise via the Internet," the article said.

●
Results of a nationwide survey conducted by **Dr. Robert Hirschfeld**, Titus Harris Chair and professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, revealed that three times as many people may suffer from bipolar disorder than previously estimated. Hirschfeld presented the groundbreaking results May 21 at the American Psychiatric Association's annual scientific meeting, and he noted the study validated his suspicion "that this illness is widely under-recognized and misdiagnosed." (CBS Marketwatch, PR Newswire)

●
Dr. Caroline Stegink Jansen, UTMB researcher and professor in the Physical Therapy Department, discussed an emerging problem with repetitive-motion injuries in children. She said more research is necessary to determine the effects of computer use on young people. Stegink Jansen's comments were part of a May 13 *Houston Chronicle* article, and they were

UTMB IN THE NEWS

Following is a sample of where UTMB was mentioned in area and national print and broadcast media during May.

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reprinted in *Computer News Daily* and *Black Enterprise* magazines. The story also was picked up by broadcast media in Baltimore, Los Angeles and Washington.

●
The Associated Press quoted **Dr. Joseph Vinetz**, UTMB assistant professor in pathology and chief spokesman for the Infectious Diseases Society of America, for a story about genetically altered mosquitoes that could help control malaria. "We won't even eat transgenic corn, let alone release transgenic mosquitoes," Vinetz said, referring to the nationwide recall of taco shells that had been contaminated with genetically modified corn. (Yahoo! News)

●
A 16-page special section in the May 12 *Austin American-Statesman* profiled Jacqui Saburido, a student from Venezuela who was a patient at **UTMB's Blocker Burn Unit** in 1999. The story chronicled the compassionate care Jacqui received at UTMB and included comments from **Dr. Steven Wolf**, assistant professor and general surgeon, and **Colleen James**, critical care nurse in the Blocker Unit.

●
Dr. Paul English, co-director of emergency medicine, was a source for two *Houston Chronicle* articles. In the May 7 *This Week* section, English was cited in an article about overcrowding in emergency rooms, attributing the dilemma to a lack of insurance among patients. A May 30 *Outdoors* column about fisherman safety quoted English, who encouraged sports enthusiasts to be prepared for emergencies. "From May through September last year, we treated about 100 bites and stings and did 60 hook removals," English said.

●
UTMB was recognized in the May 3 issue of *Houston Business Journal* as the second largest Houston-area hospital, based on the number of fully-staffed operating beds. The hospital system comprises UTMB's six hospitals and is ranked seventh in the area for the number of licensed beds. **UTMB Faculty Group Practice** ranked third largest among area medical groups.

●
An article in the May 7 *Houston Chronicle* featured **UTMB's Mini Medical School**

Impact hiatus

Just a reminder that *Impact* does not publish in July. This will be the last issue until Aug. 5. If you have something you'd like included in the August issues, please send it to Heidi Lutz at route 0144. Or send it via email to her at helutz@utmb.edu.

●
Dr. Karen N. Westlund-High, professor of anatomy and neurosciences, and **Dr. B. Mark Evers**, professor of surgery and holder of the Robertson-Poth Distinguished Chair, have been invited to serve as members of study sections for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Scientific Review. Westlund-High will serve on the Integrative, Functional and Cognitive Neuroscience (4) Student Section and Evers will serve on the Surgery and Bioengineering Study Section, each for a term beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2006.

Study sections review grant applications submitted to the NIH, make recommendations on these applications to the appropriate NIH national advisory council or board, and survey the status of research in their fields of science.

●
program and provided a list of courses now available online. **Nathalie Mangold**, community relations coordinator, said the program advances UTMB's mission, giving lay people "firsthand knowledge from experts that empowers them to be better health-care consumers."

●
UTMB's Nelda C. and H.J. Stark Diabetes Center was a setting for a special news segment May 7 on Spanish station Notivision 45 in Houston. **Dr. Maria Belalcazar**, assistant professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, discussed the danger of diabetic foot ulcers that can lead to amputation. "Patients should examine their feet every day to make sure there aren't any lesions," Belalcazar said.

●
Houston's ABC affiliate, KTRK–Channel 13, aired a story May 22 about UTMB's research into a vaccine for psoriasis. Study subjects attested to the fact they are feeling better on the treatment, and **Dr. Stephen Tying**, principal investigator and professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, and **Dr. Patricia Lee**, investigator and associate professor in the department, told psoriasis sufferers there is hope.

ate enough income over expenses to ensure that our salaries remain competitive, to offset inflation, to keep our equipment up to date and on the cutting edge, and to have a physical plant for the 21st century that we can be proud of. We also need the financial wherewithal to further develop our programs of excellence, to build on our strengths, and to replace obsolete facilities and buildings—something our plans for the east end of the campus will allow us to do.

This summer, the Institutional Budget Committee will begin meeting to determine precisely how to do this and to evaluate the steps we can and should take to ensure that we hit our financial targets.

There are three ways I know of to enhance our financial resources. One approach is to cut expenses. We've done a good job of this and will continue to look for opportunities to reduce what we spend. However, this approach in and of itself will not be sufficient. There's only so much we can cut without putting our programs of excellence at risk or diminishing our long-standing commitment to those we serve. What's more, cost cutting as a stand-alone strategy for increasing revenue is demoralizing.

Another option is to increase income from present revenue streams (revenue enhancement). There are a number of existing programs that present real opportunities to increase revenue without a proportionate increase in expenses. To give two brief examples, we're working to streamline our pre-certification process to better determine, in advance, those clinic patients capable of making

Our Town

A Message from the President

Now we need to move beyond a stable financial situation to one where we generate enough income over expenses to ensure that our salaries remain competitive, to offset inflation, to keep our equipment up to date and on the cutting edge, and to have a physical plant for the 21st century that we can be proud of. We also need the financial wherewithal to further develop our programs of excellence, to build on our strengths, and to replace obsolete facilities and buildings—something our plans for the east end of the campus will allow us to do.

UTMB President John D. Stobo

co-payments. We're also focusing on working more effectively with Medicaid-eligible patients to ensure that we're reimbursed for all eligible services provided.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we can and should

identify sources of revenue not currently in place at UTMB. Here, we must make sure we stick to our knitting and look only at activities that are part of our core competencies and consistent with our core values and purpose. Opportunities range from commercializing our expertise in telemedicine and distance education to pursuing new initiatives related to biodefense and vaccine development, from technology transfer to the five-year comprehensive campaign we're about to embark upon.

These possibilities are only a "starter" list. Development of new revenue sources that are consistent with what we stand for will require serious and creative input from everybody at UTMB and we'll be soliciting your suggestions and feedback in the very near future. We hope you'll continue to share ideas about ways we can generate additional income by cutting or conserving costs, or by realizing more revenue from existing programs.

In closing, UTMB is on financially sound footing. But we need to do more than cover current expenses. These are exciting times for the institution. We possess unique strengths that position us to address some of society's most pressing needs and concerns—issues such as homeland security, aging and quality of life, access to compassionate health care—and our reputation as a leader in these fields is growing day by day. We must have the financial wherewithal to advance these programs of excellence, to develop the campus and to invest in our most valuable resource—our employees. Based on everything we've accomplished together during the past four years, I have no doubt that we'll be able to fund our dreams and, in so doing, enhance the health and well-being of those we serve.

UTMB IMPACT

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