

IMPACT

Magazine lists UTMB among best hospitals

By Judie Kinonen

UTMB's Department of Otolaryngology and Division of Nephrology and Hypertension both were ranked in the top of their fields by U.S. News & World Report. In a list published in the July 9 issue, UTMB's Department of Otolaryngology was ranked 27th and the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension was ranked 50th.

UTMB was one of the 176 hospitals ranked this year using a formula that considers such criteria as reputation, mortality, death rate, and a mix of care-related factors such as nursing and patient services. In all, the magazine evaluated 5,189 hospitals for consideration in the rankings.

UTMB's Department of Otolaryngology is under the direction of Dr. Shawn Newlands, the Wiess Professor and Chairman, and has nationally renowned specialists who treat everything from chronic ear infections to hearing and speech problems. Nephrology, under the direction of Dr. Robert Beach, offers patients top-notch care to patients with acute or chronic kidney disease, conducting kidney transplant procedures and providing more than 6,000 dialysis treatments every year.

"I am absolutely delighted that US News & World Report has come to recognize the excellence of UTMB medicine. Our programs in ENT and Nephrology are particularly noteworthy and I congratulate Drs. Newlands and Beach for their leadership and dedication to providing world class health care," said Dr. Valerie Parisi, dean of the School of Medicine.

FAMILY INSPIRATIONS

Galveston couple establishes diabetes research fund in granddaughter's name

By J. Christian Messa

Galveston residents Tina and Allen LeCornu recently established a diabetes research fund in their granddaughter's name to support University of Texas Medical Branch researchers who are seeking a cure for type 1 diabetes.

The Ruby Christine Morgan Fund for Type 1 Diabetes Research benefits innovative studies involving the transformation of stem cells — early cells that divide and form different kinds of cells — into cells that produce insulin, the hormone needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy.

Diabetes is an incurable but treatable health condition that prevents the body from producing or properly using insulin. While the cause of diabetes is still unknown, researchers have found that genetics and environmental factors play significant roles. There are two types of diabetes: People with type 1 cannot produce insulin, while type 2 hinders the body from properly using the hormone.

UTMB researchers are conducting type 1 diabetes studies with stem cells taken from the umbilical cord blood of human placen-



Allen and Tina LeCornu established a diabetes research fund in their granddaughter's name. The fund will support UTMB researchers who are seeking a cure for type 1 diabetes. Pictured at top is Ruby Christine Morgan, the fund's namesake.

tas that are normally discarded after birth. While not currently available to the public, stem cell treatments have great potential to significantly improve the lives of people with type 1 diabetes. Currently, insulin-producing cells can be transplanted, but recipients must undergo a lifetime of immune suppression therapy to prevent



rejection of the new cells. Stem cells are less likely to be seen as "foreign" by the body and are therefore less likely to be rejected.

The American Diabetes Association reports that approximately 17 million people in the

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Submissions

We welcome and will consider any submissions for *Impact*. Items that are accepted are subject to editing for style and length. Send your items for *Impact* to the address above and we will do our best to accommodate you. Questions? Call us and someone will be glad to help you.

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McGovern contribution to establish student societies

By J. Christian Messa

Houston physician John P. McGovern has contributed \$1.5 million to UTMB to endow professional societies that will immerse the university's first- and second-year medical students in the ideals of humane, patient-centered care.

This fall, all of UTMB's approximately 220 incoming medical students will automatically become members of one of eight William Osler Student Societies, which are a program of the university's John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine. Select faculty and members of the academy—Osler Scholars and Osler Student Scholars—will be paired with each society to serve as mentors.

Osler Scholars are practicing UTMB faculty physicians who are recognized for their devotion to the art of compassionate care and for excelling as role models for students and for other physicians. Osler Student Scholars are medical students who exemplify the ideals of renowned Canadian physician Sir William Osler (1849–1919), who pioneered many innovative approaches to teaching clinical medicine, including the modern medical residency program. He also taught, exemplified and promoted compassionate care.

The Osler Student Societies will feature informal discussion, service learning projects and academic encouragement, as well as social interaction. Students will remain members of the societies through their sophomore year and thereafter will have the option of continuing their involvement.

The experiences of medical students involved in a recently completed pilot program indicated the societies should be popular. Dustin Porter, one of the 18 first-year students who participated in the pilot program, said he enjoyed visiting with UTMB's



Dr. John P. McGovern

faculty.

"We had almost unlimited access to faculty of all different specialties, and they were willing to answer questions, regardless of how insignificant the questions might have seemed at the time," said Porter, a Tyler native. "They are

all very approachable and friendly. It made the stress of medical school a little easier to bear knowing that there was someone to whom you could ask questions."

Dr. Mark Holden, an Osler Scholar who organized the pilot student group and co-mentored it with fellow Osler Scholar Dr. Judith F. Aronson, said the students' overall feedback has been quite favorable.

"It's really been outstanding; the students were extremely energetic about participating," said Holden, a UTMB associate professor of internal medicine.

In addition to being mentored by UTMB faculty and upper-level students, the Osler Student Society conducted a holiday food drive for The Jesse Tree, a nonprofit social services organization in Galveston and Brazoria counties. The students also arranged pertinent social activities, such as a screening and group discussion of the movie "The Doctor." The main character of the film, a physician who is cold and distant with his patients, learns what it feels like to receive such unsympathetic care when he himself becomes a patient.

UTMB President John D. Stobo praised McGovern for his unwavering dedication to the teaching and practice of compassionate patient care.

"Thanks to Dr. McGovern's partnership

with us and his devotion to Sir William Osler as a role model, we are establishing a culture at UTMB where the commitment to humanistic ideals spreads from the highest levels of our faculty and administration to our freshmen on their first day of class," Stobo said. "Dr. McGovern is helping us train future physicians who will develop more empathy with their patients."

Dr. Valerie M. Parisi, dean of the UTMB School of Medicine, said she looked forward to this fall, when all of her incoming students will join the Osler Student Societies.

"These groups will provide wonderful opportunities for medical students to develop important friendships while learning more about the art of compassionate patient care," said Parisi, holder of the Thomas N. and Gleaves T. James Distinguished Chair. Parisi also serves as UTMB's chief academic officer and vice president for academic program administration and services.

McGovern, a longtime supporter of UTMB, has contributed more than \$14 million to UTMB programs during the last 31 years.

In 2001, he made his first contribution to promote Osler's teachings at the university when he endowed the McGovern Academy. His \$5 million gift created endowments for five Osler Scholars. McGovern gave additional funds to UTMB in 2003 to create an endowment for a sixth Osler Scholar, as well as six Osler Student Awards for medical students. In 2004, McGovern made another gift to establish endowments for two more Osler Scholar positions, create six additional Osler scholarships and fund the Excellence in Clinical Teaching Awards. McGovern is founder of the McGovern Allergy Clinic, which he established in 1956 in Houston. It rapidly grew to become the nation's largest in that specialty.

Nominations accepted through Aug. 25 for new Osler Scholar

Nominations are being accepted through Aug. 25 for a new William Osler Scholar in the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine. Funded by a gift from Houston physician-philanthropist John P. McGovern, a \$1,000,000 endowment will support this scholar's activities related to patient care and teaching.

The successful candidate will be chosen for exemplifying the principles of highly competent, humane, compassionate, patient-centered care and teaching embodied by Sir

William Osler. To be eligible, a candidate must be a full-time member of the School of Medicine faculty at the rank of assistant professor or above, hold an M.D. or combined M.D./Ph.D., have major responsibilities in teaching and patient care, and demonstrate a model for a humanistic and compassionate approach to patients, students and colleagues.

Nominations, which can come from students, housestaff, faculty and staff, should include a statement of no more than 200

words describing how the candidate exemplifies Oslerian ideals in patient care and teaching. Electronic submissions will not be considered.

The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Aug. 25. Nominations must be submitted as hard copy to Jandee Christensen, Staff Assistant, Office of the President, 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77555-0129 (campus mail route 0129). Please mark the envelope "Osler Scholar Nominations."

UTMB neuroscience and cell biologist named Pew Scholar

By *Marsha Canright*

Dr. Jose M. Barral, assistant professor of neuroscience and cell biology, is one of 15 biomedical researchers nationwide to be recognized by the Pew Charitable Trusts for "most promising" research.

As a Pew Scholar, Dr. Barral will receive \$240,000 over four years to



Dr. Jose Barral

undertake research on a biomedical project of his own choosing. His research involves human neurodegenerative disease.

"This is an extraordinary and very well

deserved honor for Dr. Barral," said Dr. Valerie Parisi, UTMB's Chief Academic Officer and Dean of the School of Medicine. "I am thrilled that the Pew Charitable Trusts recognizes his excellent scholarship and research. It is work like Dr. Barral's that keeps UTMB on the forefront of health science research."

The Pew Scholars were selected by a distinguished committee of highly respected biomedical scientists. Recipients were named at Princeton, Columbia, Duke, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Northwestern, The Salk Institute, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, and University of California at San Francisco, University of California at Irvine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Utah.

The Pew Scholars in Biomedical Sciences program was launched to provide crucial support to researchers in the early- and mid-stages of their careers and to date has invested more than \$100 million to fund 400 scholars. Unlike many traditional research grants with strict guidelines, Pew Scholars are able to choose a research agenda and are encouraged to be entrepreneurial, to take calculated risks, and to follow unanticipated leads to maximize the benefits their research brings to society.

MyVPN client to solve remote connection issues

By *Michele Rainford*

Teams in Information Services and ATOS Origin have been working diligently to find a secure and workable solution for remote network access.

UTMB requires a secure method of transmitting and receiving data for any user wishing to connect to computing resources from off campus. Traveling faculty, students and staff as well as those working from home need a secure and readily available method of accessing the network.

A virtual private network (VPN) is an extension of a private network that encompasses links across shared or public networks such as the Internet. The networks allow organizations to securely extend their local area networks over the Internet by encrypting the data. VPNs create the ideal infrastructure for providing a secure method for the exchange of data and network resources with employees, partners, vendors and external clinics.

Previous attempts to find the best VPN for campus met with mixed, and generally unsatisfactory, results. For example, the internet service providers in some hotels could block the tool's connection to the

- **Detailed set-up instructions for MyVPN:**
www.utmb.edu/is/operations/VPN_Info/MYVPN_Setup.htm
- **List of visit frequently asked questions regarding MyVPN:**
www.utmb.edu/is/operations/VPN_Info/VPN_FAQ.htm
- **Information contact for MyVPN:**
Brian Grimm at Brian.Grimm@utmb.edu or (409) 747-8847

network.

A pilot program has been in effect with a cross section of campus users and IS employees. They have been testing the new Juniper SSL VPN tool called MyVPN.

MyVPN will replace the current Checkpoint VPN. When the license for Check point expires in October, it will no longer be available to the UTMB community. IS and ATOS will provide all the support that is needed to ensure a smooth transition to MyVPN.

The Microsoft VPN is NOT scheduled to go away at this time; if you are an MS VPN user, you can continue to use it.

MyVPN solves a very important issue. ISPs cannot block the MyVPN solution

because it is web-based. This means that you use your browser to access the VPN and thus it is less likely to have problems with the major Internet Service Providers and hotel networks.

The tool is simple to use. It installs automatically when you log on to <http://MyVpn.utmb.edu> and select the Network Connect client. This process should take no more than a minute.

UTMB is responsible for all controls, access, policies, user support, permissions and policies for MyVPN. ATOS will provide technical support for this area along with the other technical support they already provide through the help desk.

Information Services is confident that this remote access tool will fit the needs of the UTMB community.

Microsoft Exchange server upgrades to enhance email services

By *Michele Rainford*

The Information Services (IS) department is in the process of upgrading to the newest version of Microsoft Exchange server, Exchange 2003. They are making configuration changes to enhance e-mail performance, and these improvements will be in place by the end of September.

Exchange 2003 offers an improved version of the web-based e-mail, Outlook Web Access (OWA). OWA is optimized for use with Microsoft operating systems and web browsers, such as Windows XP and Internet Explorer 6.0, but will work at a basic level with other browsers as well.

The new Exchange server provides several benefits for the campus community including a change in the look and feel of OWA, view function improvements, mail work-

flow improvements, the ability to create and manage server-based e-mail handling rules, and improved calendar functions with the ability to reply to meeting requests, set personal reminder times, open the calendar from a meeting request and provide a response to a meeting cancellation notice.

URL access to Webmail will remain the same at <https://webmail.utmb.edu>.

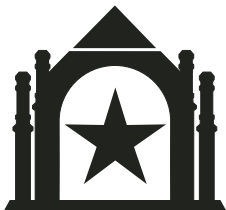
Here are some important points on the upgrade:

- Mailboxes will be moved to a different server during the evening and/or weekend hours
- The smaller the mailbox, the less time it will take to move it
- A typical mailbox will take only a few minutes to move, but IS will be moving

hundreds of mailboxes at the same time

- It would be prudent at this time to review your mailbox contents, sent items, and deleted items and remove or archive messages that have been addressed but need to be retained
- Mailboxes cannot be accessed while they are being transferred to the new server
- Contents of mail folders on the Exchange server will be moved to the new server and incoming mail will be delivered after the move has been completed
- You will be notified in advance of the move schedule for your mailbox

If you have questions regarding the upgrade, please email them to exchange.questions@utmb.edu.



Family Matters



Becky Walsdorf

Remembering her beloved sister through *Family Matters*

- To learn more about Family Matters and how you can make a difference, visit www.utmb.edu/familymatters, email family.matters@utmb.edu or call (409) 772-4555.



Becky Walsdorf's sister, Kathy, shows a drawing from her niece Samantha, who lovingly called her "funny aunt Kathy." The two had been coloring together at a 2003 family gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving and the 50th anniversary of Becky and Kathy's parents. It was the last time the family saw Kathy before she was killed in February 2004.

Becky Walsdorf remembers her sister, Kathy, as a fun-loving young woman who enjoyed conversing with the elderly. "She was a no-nonsense person with the greatest sense of humor of anyone I ever knew," said Walsdorf, executive director for community health promotion in UTMB's Office of Community Outreach. "She held a soft spot in her heart for the elderly and had always wanted to work with them, but was never able to fulfill that dream."

Kathy's life was tragically cut short three years ago when she died in a car accident at the age of 40. Walsdorf is participating in the *Family Matters* campaign by establishing the Kathryn Trout Hall Memorial Scholarship in Geriatric Nursing in her sister's name. "Her laugh was infectious and her wit was incredibly quick," Walsdorf said. "The only nonsense she tolerated was of her own making — her way of inducing someone else to join in her fun. I would hope that the recipient of this scholarship would engender these same qualities and incorporate them into his or her work with the elderly in order to make their patients' lives happier and their patients' ailments less incapacitating."

Walsdorf believes that employees and retirees should support Family Matters because of UTMB's vital role in providing health care to vulnerable populations



When Kathy and Becky were young girls growing up in Charlotte, N.C., their family would vacation in the mountains of North Carolina. Here the girls (Becky, 6, and Kathy, 4) giggle outside the cabin they stayed at in Lake Junaluska, NC.

and educating tomorrow's health professionals.

"If UTMB is to continue this important work, we need to do our part to contribute to its future. It makes me feel good to give. UTMB has been incredibly good to me, and it makes me feel great to give back in this way."

Couple establishes gynecology professorship

By J. Christian Messa

Galveston residents Dr. Julius L. Jinkins Jr. and his wife, Anne, have established a professorship in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in memory of his father, a longtime member of the department's faculty.

The Dr. J.L. Jinkins and Dr. J.L. Jinkins Jr. Professorship in Gynecology will be awarded to exemplary faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of patient care, research and education. Dr. Julius L. Jinkins Sr. was the second of three brothers to graduate from UTMB, receiving his medical degree in 1916. He began his celebrated career on the obstetrics and gynecology faculty at his alma mater, later starting at UTMB the first infertility clinic in Texas. In 1974, Julius Jinkins Sr. and his wife, Kittie Fae, established an endowment at UTMB — the Kittie Fae and J.L. Jinkins Lectureship in Fertility and Sterility. After a 66-year tenure at the academic health center, Jinkins retired in 1982. He died four years later at the age of 94.

Like his father and uncles, Julius Jinkins Jr. attended UTMB, earning his M.D. degree in 1947. He eventually worked alongside his father in UTMB's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and between 1951 and his retirement in 1989, the younger Jinkins delivered more than 6,000 babies. Jinkins said he wanted to create the professorship at UTMB because he holds the university in such high regard.

"UTMB has been a big part of my life—I went to school here and served on the faculty," the Galveston native said. "My heart and my father's heart both lie here."

Anne Jinkins said both she and her husband had been considering establishing another endowment at UTMB for some time. The two already made a commitment to create the Julius L. Jinkins Jr., M.D. and Anne M. Jinkins Fellowship in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

"I had made up my mind to establish something in my husband's name," she said. "He brought up the idea of doing something in his dad's name about the same time, so I suggested that we establish an endowment in both their names."

The Jinkinses' contribution is part of UTMB's Family Matters campaign.

Answers to frequently asked questions about HRMS replacement

An article in the June issue of *Impact* detailed the new Human Capital Management System (HCM), which is the PeopleSoft component that supports employee and human resource functions. The system will be implemented in late September at UTMB with the calculation rate change effective for the first bi-weekly paycheck in October 2006.

Below is a list of FAQs about the HCM system. They can also be found online at http://intranet.utmb.edu/peoplesoft/Human_capitalMgmtsystem along with examples of payroll calculations using HCM and additional information about the program.

HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the change affect those who contribute to the U.T. Saver 403(b) or the U.T. Saver 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan? How?

- Yes. HCM will allow U.T. Saver deductions to be taken from both the first and second bi-weekly paychecks. The current monthly contribution will be split into two equal amounts taken from each check, granting employees an opportunity to maximize their contributions (for those who desire to do so, up to the IRS maximum), invest contributions sooner, consistently invest a set dollar amount and allow more flexibility in budgeting.

For questions or more information, please call the Administrative Systems Help Desk (formerly referred to as the PSAsk Help desk) at (409) 747-7275. Call the Employee Benefits Center at (409) 772-2630 for specific questions on the UT Saver tax-sheltered annuity program and the deferred compensation plan.

Will the change affect my Flexible Spending Accounts?

- No. Flex contributions will continue to be deducted from the 2nd bi-weekly paycheck.

Will the change affect my payroll insurance deductions?

- No. Insurance deductions will continue to be deducted from the 1st bi-weekly paycheck.

How will HCM affect my overtime pay?

- In the past, UTMB has used the Legacy Human Resource Management System (HRMS) and a unique, non-standard method for calculating employee overtime earnings; our old method resulted in excess overtime payments to employees. The issue came to light during planning and development of the PeopleSoft Human Capital Management system (HCM). With HRMS, non-exempt

employees' overtime hours and dollars were not being included in the overtime rate calculation, serving to inflate the rate. When overtime hours are added to this equation, the rate goes down. For exempt employees, longevity pay, like other forms of additional compensation, should not be included in the overtime rate calculation. When longevity pay is removed from the total dollars in this equation, the rate also decreases.

If I never work overtime hours in my department, will my net pay still be affected by the switch to HCM?

- Yes, there will be other small changes that will also affect pay and compensation. The HCM system will carry the hourly rate calculation out to six (6) decimal places, the industry standard, resulting in more accurate pay for time worked. It will annualize the pay period gross amount, causing a few cents increase in withholding tax and, therefore, a few cents decrease in net pay. Employees who work part-time will see a very slight reduction in leave time granted (the current system calculates accruals by rounding up to the next quarter hour; the new system calculates on actual time worked.) The new system will also ensure that an employee with a shift eligible job works the required minimum of four hours into a differential eligible shift to

receive shift differential pay.

Will I still electronically receive my pay advice for my bi-weekly direct deposit in my Outlook email?

- You will still receive your pay advice electronically – just not via email. Your current pay advice (in addition to advices from previous pay periods) will be waiting for you when you access the PeopleSoft Employee Self Service module. A link will be provided in a later version of FAQs so keep posted for updates.

What if I don't have direct deposit and still receive a paper check each pay period?

- You will continue to receive a paper pay check – no change here.

Will we still use the KRONOS system to document our work hours?

- Yes. Leave time for monthly-paid employees will also be tracked in KRONOS beginning in September. All UTMB employees' leave accruals will also be maintained in KRONOS and employees can see their most up-to-date accrual balances by accessing KRONOS at <http://intranet.utmb.edu/time/> and entering their USERS-M name and password.

Electronic white boards keep staff, families informed in OR

By Michele Rainford

The implementation of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) is continuing as planned with scheduled rollout of components during a five-year period. In November 2004, OpTime, the operating room management system component of Epic Systems, was one of the first components to go live on campus.

OpTime is currently being used to schedule surgeries and maintain physician preference cards used to document the supplies and equipment needed for surgery. Surgeons can view their schedules from any computer using the web. After the surgery has been completed information such as surgery times and procedures are documented in the system.

A new "electronic grease board" tool is a component of OpTime and will be available for widespread use beginning in early August.

A grease board is basically a board where surgery updates are listed based on the events in the operating rooms. Previously, this was a manual process where clinicians wrote general updates by hand on a centrally located board or paper.

As of August, 40-inch monitors will be available in the main operating suite in John Sealy Hospital, the OR's waiting room, the OR in Rebecca Sealy Hospital and that waiting room as well. Another monitor is proposed for a later date in the day surgery unit.

The monitors in the waiting rooms will have up-to-date information on each patient's surgery so family members with the patient's unique ID number can see general information and the progress of the patient's procedure.

According to Michael Johnson, director, Surgical Services, brief updates such as "patient in room, surgery start, surgery

complete, patient out of OR, patient in recovery room, or patient in post anesthesia care unit (PACU)" will be provided for each patient, much like the monitors at airports that provide information on scheduled flights.

OpTime is being adapted for the Labor and Delivery unit because of the unique operating procedures in that area. The Regional Maternal Child Health clinics use the system to check availability and schedule surgeries.

Wall-mounted "thin client" computers and computers on wheels will be available for the appropriate clinicians to view and enter patient information within the rooms.

OpTime and the new electronic grease board replace an obsolete DOS-based computer operating system that was restricted to 10 users at a time. The new system allows de-centralized surgery scheduling and offers a comprehensive, streamlined process that

allows users to capture necessary data while reducing redundant data entry.

A supply list for each surgery is generated automatically based on each surgeon's preference and coordinators use this list to make the OR room ready for surgery.

Surgeons can view schedules weeks or months in advance. Cancellations and other changes appear as they occur in real-time, which allows for maximum coordination and efficiency.

The charge anesthetologist and nurse who run the daily schedule can keep the OR working smoothly and efficiently with this tool that shows completed cases, rescheduled and cancelled cases, and room availability.

For more information on OpTime scheduling and the electronic grease board, please contact Michael Johnson at mdjohnson@utmb.edu or 409-747-0351.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Vice president Richard Moore to retire at end of 2006

Last week, Richard Moore, President's Council member and vice president for business and administration, shared with me his intention to retire in December after 20 years of service to UTMB. He and his wife, Phyllis, have been involved in the development of ranching and real estate interests in South Texas for a number of years, and Richard feels the time is right to focus more of his attention on the family enterprises. He will be deeply missed at UTMB.

Over the past two decades, Richard has served the institution in a variety of capacities: first, as assistant vice president for operations and then as vice president for



Name

as UTMB's institutional business officer, information resources manager and public information officer.

In addition, he has advanced UTMB as a leading educational institutional through his service on a number of committees at the state level. These include the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Health-Related Institutions Formula Advisory Committee, the UT System Strategic Leadership Council to promote

business affairs before becoming vice president for business and administration. In his current position, he is responsible for human resources, information services, logistics, legal affairs, auxiliary enterprises and institutional analysis. He also serves

information technology collaborations among UT institutions, and the Lone Star Education and Research Network Organization to facilitate statewide high-speed telecommunications.

Richard will work closely with me, his colleagues and Support Services leadership in the coming months to ensure that the transition for each core service is a smooth one.

When Richard told me of his decision to retire, he said he considers himself privileged to have worked with so many talented, dedicated people at an institution that does so much for so many. I believe we, in turn, owe Richard a debt of gratitude for his years of dedication and countless contributions to UTMB. I hope you will join me in wishing him the very best in the years to come.

John D. Stobo, M.D.
President

School of Medicine selects new dean of Austin programs

Dr. T. Samuel Shomaker has been appointed as dean of Austin programs for the School of Medicine.



*Dr. T. Samuel
Shomaker*

Shomaker is chief executive officer and acting dean for the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. In his new role, he will seek to expand and further

strengthen the university's collaborative teaching, research and clinical programs in Austin, according to Dr. Valerie Parisi, dean of the UTMB School of Medicine.

"I am confident Dr. Shomaker will be an innovative leader who will help ensure the vitality and growth of the Austin programs and forge even stronger alliances among the Seton Healthcare Network, the University of Texas at Austin, UT System, the Travis County Medical Society and Hospital District, UTMB and the greater Austin community," Parisi said.

Shomaker said he is excited about his appointment and looking forward to working with UTMB partners to develop educational, research and clinical programs that can serve as national models for quality, innovation, efficiency and safety.

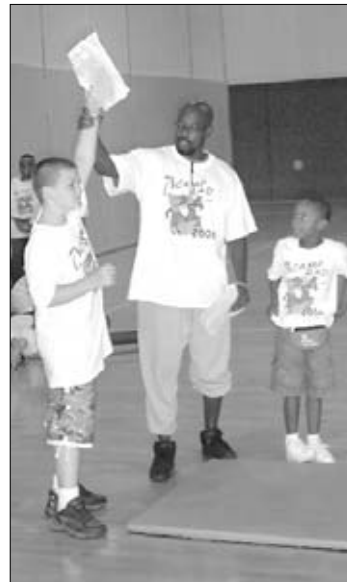
"Together, we will build upon the great foundation that has already been laid and, with sustained effort over time, realize the full potential of these significant and worthwhile programs," he said.

Shomaker earned a juris doctor degree, magna cum laude, from Georgetown University in 1979, and earned his medical degree in 1986 from the University of Hawaii where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He completed his internship in surgery at the University of Hawaii and residencies in anesthesiology at the University of Utah and the University of Florida.



Walking for the health of Texas

The UTMB Gatesville Area Relay for Life Team raised \$1465.51 for the American Cancer Society. Fund-raisers leading up to the event included a "Cutest Baby Photo Supervisor Contest," won by Valencia Pollard, practice manager of the Hughes Unit, and Vickie Siverly, nurse manager of the Hughes Unit. Also among the fund-raisers were a drawing for various items donated by UTMB employees, and a breakfast taco sale. The Taco Team, headed by Thomas Guillory, Warehouse Supervisor at the Gatesville Unit, made and sold more than 300 breakfast tacos. Joining the Survivors/Caregivers of Survivors lap at the relay were Frances Beam, assistant nurse manager, and Johnnie Williams, administrative associate. Also participating was Pam Jones, a nurse who also logged the most laps for the team with her more than 10 miles walking that night. Other team members included Vickie Siverly, nurse manager for the Hughes Unit; Clydene Aguilera, a PCA with the Woodman Unit; Maggie Haferkamp, a CCA with the Gatesville Unit; Mary Gribble, materials management clerk at the Gatesville Unit; and Dori Burns from the Hilltop Unit Human Resources division.



Breathing easy at Camp RAD

Bobby Wilson (center), Camp RAD assistant to the theater director, instructs campers Kaleb Hatton (left) and Justin Williams during rehearsals for a play about RADalot, a mythical land where the air is free of asthma-inducing pollution.



Research support

UTMB President John D. Stobo (center) accepts a \$200,000 award from Barry Beasley, center right, director of External Affairs for AT&T. This is the last installment of a \$1 million gift from the AT&T Foundation which has been used to establish the AT&T Center for Telehealth Research and Policy at UTMB. Also pictured far right is Dr. Glenn Hammack, assistant vice president and executive director of the UTMB Electronic Health Network with Texas Rep. Craig Eiland, left center, and Michael Wright representing Sen. Kyle Janek's office. To date, the AT&T Center is the only one in the nation dedicated to outcomes-based research to demonstrate the effectiveness of telehealth technology in providing access to health care. The \$200,000 will help to support a joint research effort between the AT&T Center and the prestigious Center for Information Technology Leadership in Boston. UTMB's Electronic Health Network is the largest telemedicine program in the world.



Astronaut visits bed rest study patients

NASA veteran astronaut Don Thomas (left) visits with Beth Shriber, a NASA bed-rest study participant in UTMB's General Clinical Research Center on the sixth floor of UTMB's Children's Hospital. Beth and six other study participants are civilian volunteers undergoing 41 to 119 days of enforced bed rest as part of NASA's Flight Analog Project. Bed rest can closely imitate some effects of weightlessness on the body, including muscle atrophy and bone density loss. These volunteers help physicians and scientists learn more about the effects of the weightlessness on the human body, providing biomedical data needed for sending future space travelers back to the moon and on to Mars. To learn more about the study, visit the web site at www.bedreststudy.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SAHS graduation set for Aug. 18

The School of Allied Health Sciences invites the campus community to its summer commencement ceremony Aug. 18, at 2 p.m. in the Moody Gardens Convention Center. More than 100 students from the five SAHS programs will graduate.

Dr. Judith L. Craven, a member of The University of Texas System Board of Regents, will present the keynote address. Craven served as the president of the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast and as vice president for multicultural affairs and dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Telemedicine clinic offers weekend care

For the first time, and continuing every weekend this summer, UTMB is "beaming" a physician to the Island's West End

to provide much needed access to non-emergent medical care. The UTMB Electronic Health Network, in partnership with the City of Jamaica Beach and the Galveston County Health District, have created West Isle Telemed (WIT), a clever solution to weekend medical care on Galveston's West End.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every weekend at the Jamaica Beach City Hall Public Services Building, patients can seek treatment for basic medical needs such as colds and flu, jellyfish stings, minor burns, rashes, earache and any other basic medical need.

Faced with no other options and the very real need for non-emergent medical care, area leaders believe West Isle Telemed is the remedy they've long sought to bring high-quality, low cost basic medical care to the West End during its busiest season.

Nominations sought for clinical teach awards

Each year, five faculty (four from clinical clerkships and one from the Practice of Medicine course) will be selected for the

Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award.

This award recognizes the fundamental concept exemplified by Sir William Osler that the development of outstanding physicians occurs primarily in clinical settings (ambulatory or in-patient).

Each recipient of the award will receive \$4,000 for support of his or her professional development and/or teaching programs.

Nominations can come from students, house staff, faculty and staff and must include a statement no more than 200 words in length describing how the candidate exemplifies excellence in clinical teaching.

Letters of nomination should be addressed to the John P. McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine and sent to Rosemary Lindley, 2.210 Ashbel Smith Building, Route 1311 or electronically as a Word document to rmlindle@utmb.edu.

The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Sept. 1. The recipients will be announced at the Dec. 12 Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award banquet.

OF NOTE

Kinneil Coltman, manager of training, consulting and communications in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, and **David Marshall**, chief nursing officer, have been selected by the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), an American Hospital Association affiliate, to participate in the 2006-2007 HRET Cultural Competence Leadership Fellowship. Twenty-one Cultural Competence Leadership Fellows representing U.S. hospitals and health systems, academic centers and professional associations will participate in the year-long program.

Dr. Martha Hargraves, director of health policy and health services research, moderated a panel discussion at the recent Women's Health Forum in Dallas. The topic was obesity, chronic diseases, depression, barriers to fitness and the for nutritional wellness as it relates to HIV/AIDS.

Newly enhanced web site provides FIP information

A newly retooled section of the President's Office web site offers information and updates about the Financial Improvement Plan.

The site offers messages from leadership, a glossary of terms, the top 20 recommendations and other details about the plan, posts answers to questions that have been received from campus, and more.

As UTMB moves to implement components of the plan, regular updates of key metrics and data will be posted to help faculty and staff engage in the process and track our progress. The site also features a section where questions, comments and suggestions may be submitted, anonymously if desired. The university's leadership is committed to communication and will continue working to keep the campus informed and participating in an important dialogue about our future.

Visit the web site at www.utmb.edu/president/FIP.

LECORNU from Page 1

United States have either type 1 or type 2 diabetes, and the Texas Diabetes Council estimates that 1.2 million adults in the state have been diagnosed with the disease. The total yearly economic cost of diabetes in the U.S. approximated \$132 billion in 2002, or one of every 10 health care dollars spent, according to the ADA. Diabetes-related complications include heart attacks, nerve damage, blindness and kidney failure. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in Texas, directly attributed to the loss of more than 5,600 lives in 2003.

The LeCornus' granddaughter, Ruby Morgan, was 3 years old when she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 2004. Wendy Morgan, Ruby's mother and the LeCornus' daughter, has lived with type 1 since she was a teenager. Ruby's father, Marshall, was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes the same day doctors discovered the disease in Ruby.

The LeCornus, who own and operate two shops on Galveston's historic Strand, Tina's and The Admiralty, are looking forward to the day when a cure ends their daughter's and granddaughter's constant vigilance to control their blood

Those who are interested in contributing to the Ruby Christine Morgan Fund may make checks payable to the University of Texas Medical Branch, noting the fund's name on the memo line, and mail them to:

Sandy Sheehy
UTMB Office of University
Advancement
301 University Blvd.
Galveston, TX 77555-0148.

sugar levels and use of insulin pumps to survive. "We established this research fund at UTMB to help ensure that a cure will be found in Wendy and Ruby's lifetimes," Allen LeCornu said. "Children and families everywhere are struggling with this disease, and we want that to stop."

While type 1 diabetes is treatable, Tina LeCornu said the care regimen is arduous. Her granddaughter must have her finger pricked about eight times a day for blood-sugar monitoring, and the Morgans count carbohydrates before every meal and snack to calibrate the

proper dosage given by Ruby's pager-sized insulin pump. "There's so much you have to do; unless you've been through it, you wouldn't understand," LeCornu said. "It's constant and every day. It's not something you can take a vacation from."

Ruby Morgan's insulin pump, which she wears 24 hours a day, transmits insulin via a small tube inserted beneath the skin. This tube is removed every two to three days to clean the surrounding skin area to fight infection, an activity Ruby dreads, according to Wendy Morgan. "She will ask, 'Is it OK if I cry, Mommy?' and I'll say, 'Sure, that's fine.'"

With Ruby, who turns 6 this August, her husband and herself diagnosed with diabetes, Wendy Morgan said her family encounters daily struggles dealing with the disease. But through such adversity, all three have become closer. "Ruby has a good attitude about it all," she said. "These are the cards we were dealt. I personally want to educate people about all aspects of the disease. We need to find a cure, so we won't bankrupt our country and so everyone with diabetes can eventually lead normal lives."

UTMB IMPACT

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