Ottenbacher receives new endowed professorship

By CHRISTIAN MESSA
Dr. Kenneth J. Ottenbacher, a faculty member in the School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS), has been selected for the newly established distinguished professorship that will play a key role in cognitive rehabilitation research at UTMB.

The Fannie Kempner Adoue Distinguished Professorship in Cognitive Rehabilitation is one of three endowments created for SAHS through the Cognitive Rehabilitation Initiative and is the first of the three endowed positions to be filled.

The Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund helped establish the distinguished professorship in memory of Fannie Kempner Adoue, grandmother of Kempner Fund President Robert L.K. Lynch.

Born on the island in 1888, Adoue served on the Galveston school board and was actively involved in the Galveston Playground Association, the forerunner of the city parks department. She also served as a director of the Galveston chapter of the American Red Cross for 35 years. Adoue died in 1987 at the age of 99.

Lynch said the distinguished professorship will be a lasting tribute to his grandmother.

See OTTENBACHER on page 8

SAVING HEART

“...This is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I’ve seen many doctors in the past that were supposed to be the best. I have never seen anything like the treatment I received at UTMB by Dr. Uretsky.”

Olivia Torres, HeartCenter patient

New heart procedure affords patient more breath-filled days

By JOHN TYLER
Eighty-year-old Galvestonian Olivia Torres spent more than 10 years unable to do simple chores or even walk to the bathroom without experiencing severe shortness of breath. Her doctors could not provide relief for this otherwise healthy woman who couldn’t even go down a flight of stairs or walk from one end of her home to the other without the need to sit and gasp for air.

“...This was Torres’ life for the better part of a decade. Her son was tired of it and finally declared ‘it’s time we took you to UTMB.’ Torres’ son made the suggestion because it appeared she had lost hope. Her daily regimen involved taking to many pills that her home resembled a small drug store. ‘I could have run a pharmacy out of this house,’ she laughed. But now, it’s back to an everyday routine for her.

See HEART on page 8
Dr. Alice A. O’Donell is a professor in the Department of Family Medicine who has spent much of her professional life teaching students and residents from medical students this year and has been awarded Teacher of the Year by family medicine students twice. He was listed among the “Best Physicians in the USA, 1996-1997.” Beach also received the House Staff Teaching Award in Internal Medicine and the inaugural Teaching Award in nephrology this past year. His patients have written to UTMB, praising him for his promptness, competence and concern for patients. Highl...
She also was the keynote speaker for the 1999 UTMB White Coat Ceremony, and was listed among the “Best Doctors in America, 1996–1997.”

Dr. Alice A. O’Donell is a professor in the Department of Family Medicine who has spent much of her professional life in Nephrology this past year. His patients have written to UTMB, praising him for his promptness, competence and bedside manner. He is very devoted to teaching students and residents. He has received his second Golden Apple Award as well as a Best Course Award for teaching medical students this year and has been awarded Teacher of the Year by family medicine students twice. He was listed among the “Best Physicians in the USA, 1996–1997.”

Dr. Robert E. Beach is a specialist in disorders of blood clotting and transfusion medicine and has been recognized as an exceptional teacher and clinician. His many teaching awards include the Golden Apple Award presented by the Junior Medical School Class of 1988, the First Place Teaching Award presented by the Alumni Association of the Department of Internal Medicine in 1994 and the Alumni Appreciation Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UTMB School of Medicine Alumni Association in 1998. Earlier this year he received recognition for Commitment to Continuing Education from the School for Specialists in Blood Banking and the Blood Bank staff. Alperin is a member of the faculty in the Division of Hematology and Oncology within the Department of Internal Medicine and is the associate director of the UTMB Blood Center within the Department of Pathology. He was appointed a professor in Internal Medicine and in Human Biological Chemistry and Genetics in 1983 and in Pathology in 1993.

Dr. Alice A. O’Donell was a Canadian physician who championed the cause of patient-centered medicine.

Dr. Robert E. Beach is considered a gifted clinician in the Nephrology Division who communicates well with faculty, students and residents. He has received numerous teaching awards at UTMB, including the Leonard Chauvin Award for Excellence in Resident Education in 1986 and two Golden Apple Awards for clinical teaching in 1984 and 1987.

Dr. Francis B. Quinn Jr., is a superlative clinician teacher who has been a UTMB faculty member since 1982. He is chief of the Division of General Otolaryngology and holds a joint appointment as professor in the Department of Pathology and as a special member of the graduate faculty of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Quinn is also chief of the Otolaryngology web site and the editor of the web site’s “Dr. Quinn’s Online Textbook of Otolaryngology.”

Dr. C. Joan Richardson has served UTMB as an instructor, clinician, administrator and researcher for more than 26 years. She maintains an active schedule at the university, serving as medical director for inpatient services at UTMB hospitals, vice chair of the Pediatrics Department, director of the Neonatology Division and medical director of the Infant Special Care Unit and Neonatal Nursery. Richardson is also the UTMB institutional emergency preparedness officer and holds a joint appointment as Centennial Chair in Neonatology and as a professor of Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has been honored for her teaching, enthusiasm, receiving the Pediatrics Department’s Golden Baton Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1979 and 2000. Richardson received the Nicholas and Katherine Leonard Award for Administrative Excellence in 1996 and was listed among the “Best Doctors in America, 1996–1997.” She was also the keynote speaker for the 1999 UTMB White Coat Ceremony, when incoming students receive white coats to symbolize their entrance into the medical profession.

Dr. Robert E. Beach

Dr. Alice A. O’Donell

Dr. Robert E. Beach

Dr. Francis B. Quinn Jr.

Dr. C. Joan Richardson

Dr. Jack B. Alperin

Dr. C. Joan Richardson

Dr. Francis B. Quinn Jr.
Dr. Alice A. O'Donell

Dr. Alice A. O'Donell is a professor in the Department of Family Medicine who has spent much of her professional life teaching medical students and residents from medical schools in this year and has been awarded Teacher of the Year by family medicine students twice. He was listed among the “Best Physicians in the USA, 1996–1997.” Beach also received the House Staff Teaching Award in Internal Medicine and the inaugural Teaching Award in Nephrology. He was considered a gifted clinician in the Nephrology and holds a joint appointment as professor in the Department of Pathology and as a special member of the graduate faculty.

Oleser Scholars

By CHRISTIAAN MEGA

Six School of Medicine faculty members have been named the university’s first William Osler Scholars—endorsed positions granted to physician-based faculty members for their history of providing highly competent, compassionate care, teaching medical students to do the same, and serving as role models for their peers. Created in August by a $5 million contribution from Houston physician-philanthropist John P. McGovern, the endowments are named after Sir William Osler (1849–1919), the Canadian physician who championed patient-centered medicine. Osler also instituted bedside teaching of the medical student and the modern practice of bedside teaching for medical students, which provides a valuable, hands-on learning experience.

In 1956, McGovern established the McGovern-Skipsy Clinic in Houston, which became the nation’s largest in that specialty. In 1957, he founded the fellowship program in allergy and immunology at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital, the first in Texas and the second in all medical schools of the world. In 1958, McGovern established the Texas Allergy Research Foundation, which later became the John P. McGovern Foundation. Today, the foundation is the 10th largest in Houston.

The Osler Scholars—Dr. Jack B. Alperin, Robert E. Beach, Dr. Francis B. Quinn Jr., Alice A. O’Donell, Francis B. Quinn Jr. and C. Joan Richardson—were announced Oct. 26 in the start of UTMB Founder’s Day festivities, which brings together those who helped establish and shape the 110-year-old academic health center. Each Osler Scholar will hold the honor for two years. Together, they will comprise the John P. McGovern, M.D., Academy of Osler Scholars. The income from the endowments will provide salary support, and help fund activities related to promoting and advancing the concepts of Osler medicine. At a location still to be determined on the UTMB campus, the Osler Scholars will share a suite of secondary offices, a staffed reception area and a conference room. They will use the space to study and discuss Osler and the application of the principles he embodied to their instruction.

These six faculty members truly deserve the distinction of becoming Osler Scholars,” said UTMB President John D. Stobo. “They are compassionate and humane healers who have taken personal and professional initiatives to improve the quality of care. They are role models for all practicing physicians of all medical students should pattern theirs. As mentors for our students, they will help ensure that Osler’s ideals are embodied and carried forward in the next generation of physicians trained at UTMB.”

The Osler Scholars will share a suite of secondary offices, plus a staffed reception area and a conference room. They will use the space to study and discuss Osler and the application of the principles he embodied to their instruction. These six faculty members truly deserve the distinction of becoming Osler Scholars,” said UTMB President John D. Stobo. “They are compassionate and humane healers who have taken personal and professional initiatives to improve the quality of care. They are role models for all practicing physicians of all medical students should pattern theirs. As mentors for our students, they will help ensure that Osler’s ideals are embodied and carried forward in the next generation of physicians trained at UTMB.”

Stobo held the Sir William Osler Professorship in Medicine at Johns Hopkins University immediately before becoming UTMB president in 1997. He met McGovern decades ago serving at UTMB and quickly discovered both the admirers of Osler and his principles—Stobo instituted an Osler Scholars program at Johns Hopkins, one of two American universities where Osler served on the medical faculty, while McGovern founded the American Osler Society in 1969.

McGovern’s $5 million contribution to establish the McGovern Academy of Osler Medicine addressed concerns he had from observing the growing emphasis on medical technology and research at medical schools across the country. While McGovern has said his prominence in classroom has served to distract the importance of developing caring relationships between physicians and patients, he said that the application of the principles Osler embodied, “You have to treat the whole patient, not just the disease, and that takes time.”

Established in 1996, UTMB incorporates the oldest continuously operating medical and nursing schools in Texas. Through the years, UTMB has conferred more than 23,000 degrees.
Osler Scholars announced during Founder’s Day celebrations

By CHRISTIA MEGA

Six School of Medicine faculty members have been named as the university’s first William Osler Scholars—endowed positions granted to practicing physicians based on their history of providing highly competent, compassionate care, teaching medical students to do the same, and serving as role models for their peers.

Created in August by a $5 million contribution from Houston physician philanthropist John P. McGovern and a group of prominent physicians and educators, the Osler Scholars program is the most notably challenging of the school’s recent endowed programs. Osler also instituted the program and the modern practice of bedside teaching for medical students, which provides a valuable, hands-on learning experience.

In 1996, McGovern established the McGovern Allergy Clinic in Houston, which became one of the nation’s largest in that specialty. In 1997, he founded the fellowship program in allergy and immunology at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital, the first in Texas and the second in all medical schools worth of the Mason-Dixon Line. In 1963, McGovern established the Texas Allergy Research Foundation, which later became the John P. McGovern Foundation. Today, the foundation is the 10th largest in Houston.

The Osler Scholars—Dr. Jack B. Alperin, Robert E. Beach, Dr. Alice A. O’Donell, Dr. Francis B. Quinn Jr., Dr. C. Joan Richardson and Dr. Tung V. Dinh—will share a suite of secondary offices, plus a staffed reception area and a conference room. They will use the space to meet and discuss Osler and the application of the principles he embodied to their instruction.

“These six faculty members truly deserve the distinction of becoming Osler Scholars,” said UTMB President John D. Stobo. “They are compassionate and humane healers. They understand the importance of an overall, generally care about the health and welfare of the patient. They can communicate with the patient in a way that is non-threatening. Osler’s ideals are embodied and grown forward by new generations of physicians trained at UTMB.”

Stobo held the Sir William Osler Professorship in Medicine at Johns Hopkins University immediately before becoming UTMB president in 1997. He met McGovern shortly after arriving at UTMB and quickly discovered both were admirers of Osler and his principles. Stobo instigated an Osler Scholar program at Johns Hopkins, one of two universities where Osler served on the medical faculty, while McGovern founded the American Osler Society in 1980.

McGovern’s $5 million contribution to establish the McGovern Academy of Oslerian Medicine addressed concerns he had from observing the growing emphasis on medical technology and research at medical schools across the country. While UTMB faculty members have maintained high standards of care, McGovern has said its prominence in clinical care has diminished the importance of developing caring relationships between physicians and patients. He said he would like to see that relationship between the physician and the patient be re-emphasized.

“Osler Scholar, Robert E. Beach, is a professor in the Department of Family Medicine who has spent much of his professional life teaching students and residents the art of compassionate care. She began her medical career as a pediatrician and later expanded her medical background to include adult medicine. She has long been recognized as being at the forefront of curricular innovation in Family Medicine. O’Donell is known for her mentoring and support for students and serves as a role model in her approach and personal interest in caring for her patients.

Dr. Robert E. Beach is considered a gifted clinician in the Nephrology Division who communicates well with faculty, students and residents. He received his second Golden Apple Award as well as a Best Course Award from medical students this year and has been awarded Teacher of the Year by family medicine students twice. He was listed among the “Best Physicians in the USA, 1996-1997.” Beach also received the House Staff Teaching Award in Internal Medicine and the inaugural Teaching Award in Nephrology this past year. His patients have written to UTMB, praising him for his promptness, competence and support manner. Highly respected, Beach directs two courses and chairs the Year 1-2 Course Directors’ Committee. He became the course director for the Practice of Medicine course in 2000.

Dr. Alice A. O’Donell is a professor in the Department of Family Medicine who has spent much of her professional life teaching students and residents the art of compassionate care. She began her medical career as a pediatrician and later expanded her medical background to include adult medicine. She has long been recognized as being at the forefront of curricular innovation in Family Medicine. O’Donell is known for her mentoring and support for students and serves as a role model in her approach and personal interest in caring for her patients.

Dr. Francis B. Quinn Jr., is a superlative clinician teacher who has been a UTMB faculty member since 1982. He is chief of the Division of General Otolaryngology and holds a joint appointment as professor in the Department of Pathology and as a special member of the graduate faculty of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Quinn is also Chief of Otolaryngology for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Hospital at UTMB. Holder of the J.G. Seinsheimer Jr. and Jessie Lee Seinsheimer Professorship in Otolaryngology, Quinn has been voted Outstanding Teacher in the Otolaryngology Department each year based on annual teaching evaluations by medical students and residents. He conducts weekly bedside rounds with residents and students to share his views concerning compassionate care. Quinn also is webmaster of the UTMB Otolaryngology web site and the editor of the web site’s “Dr. Quinn’s Online Textbook of Otolaryngology.”

Dr. C. Joan Richardson has served UTMB as an instructor, an administrator, and researcher for more than 26 years. She maintains an active schedule at the university, serving as medical director for inpatient services at UTMB hospitals, vice chair of the Pediatrics Department, director of the Neonatology Division and medical director of the Infant Special Care Unit and Newborn Nursery. Richardson is also the UTMB institutional emergency preparedness officer and holds a rank of full professor and holds the Centennial Chair in Neonatology and is a professor of Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology. She has been honored for her teaching, enthusiasm, receiving the Pediatrics Department’s Golden Robin Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1979 and 2000. Richardson received the NICHolle and Catherine Lemoine Award for Administrative Excellence in 1996 and was listed among the “Best Doctors in America, 1996-1997.”

She was also the keynote speaker for the 1995 UTMB White Coat Ceremony, when incoming students receive white coats to symbolize their entrance into the medical profession.