

### Research Office Adds Clinical Trials Resource Coordinator

Catharine "Catey" Carter, a registered nurse and experienced clinical trials coordinator, has joined the Office of Research as clinical trials resource coordinator. "Catey's assignment is to work with investigators and their staff to assist them in developing their budgets and administrative information for clinical trials," said Peter J. Davies, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president for Research.

Carter is making visits to clinical research investigators, coordinators and department administrators to introduce them to the program and to gain an understanding of their needs for support in this area of research. "I am particularly interested in working with investigators and their staff to assist them in developing budgets and other administrative elements involved in setting up sponsored clinical trials," she said.

In addition, the Research Office is developing uniform processes for identifying the costs associated with clinical trials and the mechanisms to insure the appropriate billing of research-related expenses. "The latter issue is a challenge since departments have numerous methods for both the budgeting and billing associated with clinical trials," Carter said.

All clinical researchers interested in support for their programs may contact Carter at Catharine.V.Carter@uth.tmc.edu or (713) 500-3524.

— Pamela Lewis

### Drs. Schultz and Narayana Receive Donation to MS Research

A crowd of more than 56,000 cheering country music fans greeted UT Medical School at Houston Dean Stanley Schultz, M.D., and Ponnada Narayana, Ph.D., when they appeared onstage March 20 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The pair represented the UT Medical School as star Clay Walker paused in his rodeo-closing performance to present them with a \$100,000 check earmarked for research on multiple sclerosis (MS).

"We are delighted to accept this generous gift, which will be used to help us advance our understanding of MS and its management," said Schultz.

Walker, a Beaumont native, formed the Band Against MS<sup>SM</sup> Foundation in 2003 to help others learn more about the disease and provide funding for research into new therapy options and, ultimately, a cure for MS. "Each year, the foundation awards grants to worthy medical institutions to further MS research. Our goal is to find a cure for this disease, and I am doing everything I can to lead that charge," said Walker, who was diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS in 1996.

Last year, the Band Against MS<sup>SM</sup> Foundation helped the UT Medical School complete its purchase of a state-of-the-art imaging machine, the 3 Tesla MRI. By enabling researchers to directly assess nerve-cell damage in patients living with MS, the MRI helps improve diagnosis and treatment.

To find out more about Band Against MS<sup>SM</sup> Foundation, log on to <http://www.bandagainstmis.org>. For more on Clay Walker, see: <http://www.claywalker.com>.

— Shannon Rasp



### Texas Heart Institute, UT System Announce Affiliation

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and The University of Texas System recently announced a special affiliation to further research and education in cardiovascular disease.

To advance research and education in cardiovascular disease, THI and UT System, with the assistance of the UT Health Science Center at Houston, agreed to cooperate in recruitment of scientists, including physicians, to joint appointments at UTHSC-H and THI. At THI's request, UT System and the health science center also will assist in recruiting scientists to THI who have medical or faculty appointments at other Texas Medical Center institutions. THI and UT System also agree to cooperate in mutually beneficial fund-raising for research and education programs, which will include seeking support at the local, state, federal and international levels from both public and private resources.

"This unique affiliation between the world class programs of THI and The University of Texas System offers terrific opportunities to further strengthen cardiovascular research and education, to improve the health of Texans, and to enhance the role of Texas as a leader in research, treatment and preventive medicine," said Mark G. Yudof, chancellor of the UT System.

"In this affiliation THI becomes the hub of a grand research collaboration involving Baylor College of Medicine and The UT Health Science Center at Houston, along with other universities and health care institutions, in the quest to conquer cardiovascular disease. The affiliation with UT System will allow THI to expand its research capacities and cooperate with other UT components. I believe this agreement signals a new era in collaboration," said James T. Willerson, M.D., president-elect of THI and president of the UT Health Science Center at Houston.

— David R. Bates



*The Leader* is published monthly for faculty, staff and students of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston by the Office of Public Affairs, 7000 Fannin, Suite 1200, Houston, Texas 77030, <http://theleader.uthouston.edu>.

#### DEADLINES

Submit information to be considered for publication in *The Leader* by the 15th of the month one month prior to the desired time of publication. Requests for feature articles require a longer lead time and will receive strategic consideration. Send electronic information in Word format (no PDFs or posters) and digital photos as unedited, high-resolution images at 300 dpi or better. E-mail to Pamela.Lewis@uth.tmc.edu. Include a contact name, phone number and e-mail address. Mail hard copy to *The Leader*, c/o Pamela Lewis, Office of Public Affairs, University Center Tower, 1200, or fax to (713) 500-3037. For information regarding *The Leader*, call Pamela Lewis at (713) 500-3040.

**James T. Willerson, M.D.**  
President

**C. Gwin Morris, Ph.D.**  
Vice President for Public Affairs

**Jane Brust**  
Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs

**Ina Fried**  
Director of Communications

**Pamela Lewis**  
Editor

**Eli Gukich**  
Designer

**Advisory Committee**  
Richard D. Bebermeyer, D.D.S.  
Dental Branch Faculty

Marsha Brody-Silva  
Human Resources

Barbara Legate  
Administrative & Professional

Ronda K. Lowe  
University Classified Staff Council

Christy Marshall  
Student Intercouncil

## CALENDAR

APRIL 15 – MAY 14

Please send Calendar items for the May issue of *The Leader*, which covers May 16-June 14, to Pamela.Lewis@uth.tmc.edu by April 18.

★ **April 16, 23** — **UT House Medics**, a volunteer program celebrating its 14th year of helping elderly homeowners spruce up their dwellings, **8 a.m.-5 p.m.** Rain date **April 30**. No experience necessary. For more information, see <http://is.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/projects/housemed.html>. Contact Krysti Suarez, (713) 500-2241, or Dennie Clemons, (713) 500-2235.

★ **April 20** — **PARTNERS Lecture** on "Arthritis: Its Many Faces" by Frank C. Arnett, M.D., holder of the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology and professor of internal medicine, UT Medical School at Houston, **11:30 a.m.**, St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Education Building, Room 210. Sponsored by PARTNERS, the community support group of the School of Nursing. Dessert and beverages provided. Contact Anne Roberts, (713) 500-2003.

★ **April 20** — "**Unraveling Regulation Network of Thymocyte Development – A Mathematical Approach**" is the topic of Guanyu Wang, Ph.D., assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, UT Medical School at Houston, during the School of Health Information Sciences Research Seminar, noon, University Center Tower, Suite 1414. Contact Namiko Bureson@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-3938.

★ **April 21, 29, May 3** — **Town Hall meetings on Updating the Compact with The University of Texas System** to include objectives and strategies for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. The initial draft is due in May 2005 with a final submission later this summer. Michael McKinney, M.D., senior executive vice president, and L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., executive vice president for Academic Affairs, will host a series of brown bag Town Hall meetings to discuss the compact and solicit comments and suggestions from the university community. Upcoming dates are:

- **11:30 a.m., Thursday, April 21** - Medical School, Room 3.001
- **11:30 a.m., Friday, April 29** - School of Nursing & Student Community Center, Room 330
- **11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 3** - University Center Tower, Room 1505C.

For more information on the compact, visit <http://www.uthouston.edu/compact/>.

★ **April 21** — "**Therapeutic Potential of Milk Thistle (Silybum marianum) and Associated Flavonolignans in Carcinomas of the Prostate and Breast**" is the topic of David Kroll, Ph.D., research pharmacologist, Research Triangle Institute, Research Triangle Park, N.C., during the Integrative Medicine Program Lecture, **noon**, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Hickey Auditorium, R11.1400. Sponsored by Office of Academic Affairs and Integrative Medicine Program, directed by Lorenzo Cohen, Ph.D., adjunct associate professor, behavioral sciences, UT School of Public Health at Houston. Lunch provided. See <http://www.mdanderson.org/CIMER> or contact Lisa Gower, (713) 563-8953 or lgower@mdanderson.org.

★ **April 21** — "**Structural Variation in Vestibular Hair Cells**" is the topic of Ellengene Peterson, Ph.D., professor, Neuroscience Program, Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University, during the Neurobiology and Anatomy Seminar, **4 p.m.**, Medical School, Room 7.037. Contact David Marshak, Ph.D., (713) 500-5617.

★ **April 22** — "**The Role of Integrative Medicine in Comprehensive Cancer Care**" is the topic of Lorenzo Cohen, Ph.D., associate professor of behavioral science, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and adjunct associate professor, School of Public Health, during the School of Nursing Research Seminar, **noon**, School of Nursing and Student Community Center, Room 508, Contact Maggie.L.Downey@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-2041.

★ **April 26** — "**Signal Integration in the Striatum**" is the topic of Nobel Laureate Paul Greengard, Ph.D., the Vincent Astor Professor, The Rockefeller University, during the Distinguished Lecture in the Neurosciences, **4 p.m.**, Medical School, Room 3.001.

★ **April 28** — "**Surgical Management of Epilepsy**" is the topic of Nitin Tandon, M.D., associate professor, Department of Neurosurgery, UT Medical School (MS), during Neurology Grand Rounds, **noon**, MS, Room 2.135.

★ **April 28** — The 2005 **Spring HUB Vendor Fair**, hosted by the Historically Underutilized and Small Business Assistance Center and its Staff Coordinating Group, will be **10 a.m.- 2 p.m.**, MS, Fifth Floor Gallery. The event gives local HUB vendors the opportunity to display their goods and services to employees within the health science center. Stop by for refreshments, door prizes and lots of new products to see and sample. Enhanced UT shuttle service will be provided to the Medical School. Contact: Peter.A.Martin@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-4709.

★ **May 6** — **Registration deadline** for the **10th Annual University Classified Staff Workshop "Going for the Goal – Embrace the Challenge and Seize the Opportunity"**, presented by the University Classified Staff Council, at the Park Plaza Hotel near Reliant Stadium. Keynote speakers are Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale and Steve McKinney of the Houston Texans. Only **300 seats** are available **exclusively for classified staff** with supervisor approval. This one-day workshop is at no cost to the employees or departments. To reserve your seat, register online at [http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ut\\_general/special\\_interest/committees/ucsc/](http://oac.hsc.uth.tmc.edu/ut_general/special_interest/committees/ucsc/).

★ **May 11** — "**Mechanism and Disease Implications of Intracellular Vesicle Traffic**" is the topic of Randy Schekman, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley, and an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, **4 p.m.**, Medical School, Room 3.001, during the Dean's Lecture.