

Landry Named Director of U.S. Head Start Committee

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has appointed Susan Landry, Ph.D., director of the State Center for Early Childhood Development at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, chairman of the newly formed Secretary's Advisory Committee on Head Start Accountability and Education Performance Measures.

The committee will help assess progress in developing and implementing the Head Start National Reporting System (a school readiness rating system for early childhood education) and make recommendations for integrating the system with other broader, ongoing assessments of Head Start.

Landry, chief of developmental pediatrics and the Michael Matthew Knight Professor, will lead the 10-member committee for the next two years. The first meeting was held June 15 in Washington, D.C.

In December 2002, Texas Gov. Rick Perry chose Landry's Center for Improving Readiness of Children for Learning and Education (CIRCLE) to help implement the governor's Early Start Initiatives.

— *Melanie Hillis*

UT Health News You Can Use

New Center a Collaboration of UT Physicians, Outpatient Imaging Affiliates

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston has joined with a private firm to establish a freestanding outpatient diagnostic imaging center in Houston.

UT Imaging-Houston, the joint venture formed between UT Physicians, the medical practice of The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, and Outpatient Imaging Affiliates (OIA) of Nashville, Tenn., will give the university its first ownership interest in an imaging facility.

The center will provide such services as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scans when it opens later this year. The center will be located near the intersection of West Loop 610 and Bellaire Boulevard.

"This is an exciting development. UT Imaging-Houston will expand our faculty's scope of clinical practice and make their specialized expertise more widely available to Houston-area patients and physicians," said Susan John, M.D., head of the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Imaging at the medical school. "The imaging center also will help us better serve our patients and fellow physicians in the Medical School's clinical practice."

Oh, My Aching Back

"The joke in the health and safety field is that 'ergonomics' is the Latin term for 'expensive furniture,'" said Robert Emery, Dr.P.H., executive director of environmental health and safety for the UT Health Science Center. But that doesn't have to be so. Check out these inexpensive ergonomic solutions to physical problems:

- Workers standing and collating papers on a tabletop put themselves at risk for back strain. Raise the table by stacking books under the table legs and stooping is eliminated.
- A woman of short stature was having leg pains. Emery assessed her work area, noticed her feet didn't touch the floor while sitting, and he gave her a small box to comfortably place her feet on.
- Lab workers were having trouble wheeling around a heavy, shoulder-high metal lab cart. Turns out the cart's wheels were much too small. Large wheels made pushing the cart much easier. "Sometimes the solution is to engineer out the problem if you can," Emery said.

—*HealthLeader*

Radio Music Theatre Offers Free Night of Comedy

During September, Radio Music Theatre is offering free nights of comedy for faculty, staff and students of UT Health Science Center. The special offer is for any available performance of the production of "Just Shut Up and Drive" at 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, or 10:30 p.m., Saturdays.

To take advantage of this offer:

- call the box office, (713) 522-7722, 11

a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday;

- give your name, number in your party and the date you wish to attend;
- say you are with the UT Health Science Center at Houston and your party will be admitted free.

Reservations required; seating is limited. For additional information, call Elease Jenkins, (713) 500-3035. ★



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
Executive 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
John McAuliffe
Student InterCouncil

CALENDAR

AUGUST 15 – SEPTEMBER 14

Please submit calendar items for the **September 15** issue of *The Leader*, which covers **September 15-October 14**, to Pamela.Lewis@uth.tmc.edu, by **August 17**.

August

★ **31** — Clinical Research Curriculum Orientation, **4 p.m.**, Medical School Building, Room 2.135, offers an outline of the core training program — the Clinical Research Curriculum. Topics include getting started in clinical research and insights into the opportunities for young clinical investigators. For a complete schedule of upcoming courses in the Clinical Research Curriculum, visit <http://ped1.med.uth.tmc.edu/neo/center-crca.htm>. Contact: Ida.

Hernandez@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-6708.

★ **31** — Intro to Epidemiology Research, **5-6:30 p.m.**, Medical School Building, Room 2.135, provides a basis for understanding the concepts and methodological skills necessary for designing and interpreting observational studies. These include validity (random error, bias and confounding), measures of disease occurrence and impact, measures of association, reliability, causal inference, and critically reviewing evidence. Contact: Ida. Hernandez@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-6708.

September

★ **5** — Labor Day Holiday, full closure.

★ ★ ★ NewsBriefs ★ ★ ★

Circulating Stem Cells Play Lung Repair Role

Circulating stem cells play a minor role in repairing lung damage, according to a team of scientists who used male and female chromosomal differences to analyze the repair process in lung transplant patients.

Reporting in the July 27th edition of the journal *Transplantation*, lead author Dani Zander, M.D., of the UT Medical School at Houston, and colleagues at the University of Florida College of Medicine found that less than 1 percent of a certain type of reparative lung stem cell originated in the bone marrow of the transplant recipient.

"It's possible in the future that circulating stem cells could be augmented to play a greater role in lung repair — and people are looking at ways to do that. We found that the bulk of stem cell contribution to the repair process belongs to those stem cells normally found in the lungs rather than to circulating stem cells," said Zander, who is professor and vice chair of pathology and laboratory medicine. For more information, visit http://www.uthouston.edu/Media/newsreleases/nr2005/lung_stemcell.html.

Adult Stem Cell Therapy Reaches Major Milestone

Physicians of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, including James T. Willerson, M.D., president of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, announced a significant new finding in their clinical trial of adult stem cells to treat patients with severe heart failure. The doctors initiated a study four years ago with colleagues at the Pro-Cardiaco Hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The research begun in Brazil has allowed the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's to have the first FDA-approved clinical trial of adult stem cells — taken from the patient's own bone marrow — for the treatment of severe heart failure.

Researchers analyzed the heart of a patient who underwent stem cell treatment in the study conducted in Brazil and who subsequently died of unrelated causes. They found, following the stem cell treatment, the patient had marked improvement in heart function and blood flow to the heart.

"We believe this is the first time in the world that we've had the opportunity to examine a human heart following treatment for severe heart failure in which stem cells taken from a patient's own bone marrow are injected directly into injured but still viable portions of the heart muscle. We believe this is an unequivocal demonstration of marked improvement in blood flow," said Willerson, who is also president-elect and medical director of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's. For more information, visit <http://www.texasheartinstitute.org/stemcell7-05.html>.

★ ★ ★ Stars ★ ★ ★

Staff

★ Pharmacist Vivian Abobo, who works under contract with McKesson, at the UT Harris County Psychiatric Center, was presented with the McKesson Medical Management Award for Clinical Excellence and Innovation at the company's annual meeting. McKesson senior management was impressed with many of the programs implemented at HCPC, including the patient monitoring guidelines, drug therapy monitoring, empiric antibiotic monitoring guidelines and other programs implemented to improve patient care.