

## CALENDAR

APRIL 17 – MAY 15

## April

★ 20 — “Obstetric, Neonatal and Pediatric Care: A Spectrum of Life Giving Solutions” is the topic of the March of Dimes 11th Annual Visiting Professorship in Nursing, **8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**, UT School of Nursing, First Floor Auditorium, Room 120. Susan Landry, M.D., the Michael Matthew Knight Professor and chief, division of Developmental Pediatrics at the UT Medical School, is one of the speakers. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.marchofdimes.com/texas>.

★ 21 — “Do We Know Enough to Improve Population Health?” by George A. Kaplan, Ph.D., a research professor at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, is the topic of the Annual John P. McGovern Award Lecture Series in Health Promotion, sponsored by the Center for Health Promotion and Prevention Research, **noon-1:30 p.m.**, School of Public Health auditorium.

★ 25 — HEADS UP Advanced Genetics Module Release and National DNA Day Celebration, **6-8 p.m.**, The Health Museum, 1515 Hermann Dr. Guests may preview the HEADS UP program’s module videos, visit the “Stem Cells & You” traveling exhibit, meet cast members and field experts involved with the module production, and participate in DNA Day activities. In the Advanced Genetics Modules, health science careers are highlighted through the stories of real scientists and experts. Topics include animal models, gene therapy, stem cell therapy, plus ethical and policy-making considerations. For more information, visit <http://www.sph.uth.tmc.edu/chppr/headsup/default.htm>. Contact: Nathalie Sessions, (713) 500-9678.

★ 26 — The annual Spring HUB Vendor Fair, **10 a.m.-2 p.m.**, Fifth Floor Gallery, Medical School Building, sponsored by the Historically Underutilized and Small Business Assistance Center and its staff coordinating group, is designed to give local HUB vendors the opportunity to display their goods and services to employees within the health science center. Enjoy refreshments, door prizes and lots of new products for you to see and sample. Contact: Peter.A.Martin@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-4709.

★ 27 — “Creating and Maintaining Your Digital Profile” is the topic of Cynthia Phelps, Ph.D., assistant professor, School of Health Information Sciences, **noon**, Medical School Building, room B100, sponsored by the Association of Women Faculty and the Committee on the Status of Women. Creating and maintaining a professional presence on the Internet is essential

today. In an increasingly digital world, academic professionals rely on digital technology to communicate research, innovations, service activities and other professional resources to colleagues and the general public. Learn to use freely available resources to build and maintain a professional digital profile. Open to faculty, staff and students; free lunch for the first 30 people.

★ 28 — University Classified Staff Council Workshop, **7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**, Park Plaza Hotel. Contact: Maria.T.Hernandez@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-2081.

★ 28 — “Designing and Implementing a Behavioral Therapies Trial of Mindfulness-Based Meditation in a Therapeutic Community” by Marianne Marcus, Ed.D., the John P. McGovern Professor in Addiction Nursing and director of the Center for Substance Abuse Education, Prevention and Research, will be the topic of the School of Nursing Research Seminar Series, **noon**, School of Nursing and Student Community Center, Room 508. Contact: Tammy.Clemmons@uth.tmc.edu, (713) 500-2041.

## May

★ 3 — Information Technology Data Center Open House, **10 a.m.-3 p.m.**, University Center Tower, sixth floor, includes a morning ribbon cutting, giveaways and door prizes including an iPod Nano, tours of the facility, and refreshments. The open house is sponsored by CSI Leasing, Compucom, ClearCube, APC and D-Link.

★ 4 — School of Health Information Sciences Commencement Ceremony, **4 p.m.**, School of Nursing Auditorium. The speaker is James Yorke, Ph.D., founder of the Mathematical Field, Chaos Theory.

★ 5 — School of Public Health Commencement Ceremony, **2 p.m.**, TMC Hornberger Conference Center. Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, is the speaker.

★ 5 — School of Nursing Commencement Ceremony, **7-10 p.m.**, George R. Brown Convention Center. The speaker is Maria Warda, Ph.D., dean of the School of Nursing at Georgia Southwestern State University.

★ 6 — Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Commencement Ceremony, **10 a.m.**, TMC Hornberger Conference Center. The speaker is Kenneth Shine, M.D., executive vice chancellor for Health Affairs, The University of Texas System.

## Genetic Variation Cuts “Bad” Cholesterol, Reduces Heart Disease Risk

People fortunate enough to have specific variations in a single gene enjoy moderately lower levels of “bad cholesterol” in their blood and significantly lower risk for coronary heart disease over their lifetimes, researchers from two University of Texas institutions report the week of March 22 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

For the vast majority of people who don’t enjoy this genetic protection, the researchers

note, the findings have an important lesson: early, consistent and moderate reductions in low-density lipoprotein would markedly reduce lifetime risk of coronary heart disease.

The study by scientists from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas looked at the impact of specific variations in the gene among 3,363 blacks and 9,524 whites over 15 years. ★

## Federal Law Governs External Group E-mail Transmissions from UT Health Science Center

*continued from page 3*

receiving opt-out or unsubscribe messages or communications for at least 30 days after the original message was sent.

—Following is an example of appropriate wording of an “opt-out”:

We hope you enjoy receiving e-mail notices and updates from our office. If you do not wish to receive e-mail messages promoting commercial products or services from (name of university school and/or department), please reply to this e-mail and change the subject line to “Unsubscribe.” Your choice to “opt out”/“unsubscribe” pertains to e-mail communications sent by (name of university school or department) only. To opt out of communications by other schools or departments, please contact those schools or departments directly.

If you fulfill the above requirements, the elements of CAN-SPAM have been satisfied and the e-mail may be sent. If not, it would be unlawful to send the e-mail without revising its contents to include all of the required elements.

The purpose of CAN-SPAM Act legislation is not to prevent legitimate businesses from marketing to current customers and interested prospects. The legislation is intended to crack down on pornographic e-mails, get-rich-quick-schemes and other types of unsolicited e-mails that many people hate to receive. By following the requirements set forth in the law, e-mails can be sent that are both helpful and convenient for the recipient and meet the business needs of the sender at the same time.

For more information, contact: Karen Parsons, (713) 500-3310. ★

## ★ ★ ★ Stars ★ ★ ★

## Faculty

★ **Marlene Cohen, Ph.D.**, is the new chair of the department of Nursing for Target Populations at the School of Nursing.

★ **Sandra Upchurch, Ph.D.**, is the new chair of the department of Nursing Systems at the School of Nursing.

## Staff

★ **Cheryl Chinen** is the new director of Management Operations for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at the Medical School.

★ **Kirtley Harriss** is the new director of Management Operations, in the Medical School Department of Neurology.

★ **Jodi Ogden** is the new contracts director, Office of Sponsored Projects, Research Affairs.

## Students

★ Dental student **Maria Trujillo** has received a National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) summer dental student award. Trujillo will spend a summer conducting research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. The NIDCR Summer Dental Student Award is designed to promote the professional careers of talented dental students through exposure to the latest advances in oral health research. Participation may result in the presentation of research findings at a scientific meeting and co-authorship of scientific publications.

★ **Justin Wright**, second-year dental student, has been awarded a student research fellowship by the American Association for Dental Research for his project, “Characterization of Functional Interaction between PITX2, LEF-1, and Beta-Catenin.” His scientific mentor was Brad Amendt, Ph.D., associate professor and director, Institute of Biosciences and Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center. His faculty mentor was Karen Storthz, Ph.D., associate dean for Research, UT Dental Branch.



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

**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**

**Mary Maher**

Human Resources

**Dennie Clemons**

University Classified Staff Council

**Theresa Le**

Administrative & Professional

**John McAuliffe**

Student InterCouncil

**Ted Pate, Ph.D.**

Interfaculty Council

**Michael Tramonte**

Administrative & Professional

*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.