

STAR Team Award Winner Named

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Great, effective work teams are alive and well at the UT Health Science Center. So say the members of the UT WorkLife Council announcing the 20-member Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Team as the first recipient of the STAR Team Award, which will be presented at the annual STAR Awards Banquet in February.

"Part of what makes this GSBS group such a great team is that they work together, as stated on their application, as 'The Three Musketeers — one for all and all for one,'" says Sherry Wilson, director of UT Counseling and WorkLife Services. Much of their STAR team application doc-

umentation included examples of how they support each other, even when it is not required or isn't in their job description.

Other factors that contributed to the team's selection were the respect they give to one another, their efforts to provide work-life balance to every employee, and supporting educational pursuits outside of work including partial tuition opportunities, Wilson says.

"The GSBS team also has open communication and quick conflict resolution. Team members said they felt very valued by their fellow employees, their boss and by every administrative leader," Wilson explains.

"We aren't just a place to work — we feel like we are family," the application said, ending with "we can't imagine a better place to work." The WorkLife Council is very proud to bestow this award to the "GSBS Team."

Wilson says that the WorkLife Council was thrilled with the applications received. "We want to thank everyone who took the time to apply. It was very hard to make a decision with more than 10 other wonderful entries, but in the end, it was the GSBS Team that demonstrated everything we were looking for in a 'STAR Team.'"

Wilson also congratulates the other three

finalists: the Periodontics/Dental Hygiene Department at the UT Dental Branch; the Oral Pathology Team, Department of Diagnostic Sciences at UT Dental Branch; and the Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences Penthouse Posse, from the School of Public Health/Environmental Sciences Division.

"I hope this will be an award and an honor that teams across the UT Health Science Center will pursue every year," says Wilson, "because it was humbling to the WorkLife Council to see what great teamwork there is out there. We really want to support their efforts every year with this award." ★

Darlington Named Second Jimenez Leadership in Action Award Winner

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Paul E. Darlington, Ph.D., associate dean of the UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, has been named the second winner of the Michael J. Jimenez Leadership in Action Award. His was one of 16 nominations of campus leaders (see list, page 2) received for the award, which will be presented at the annual STAR Awards luncheon in February. The selection was made by a committee of several members from the WorkLife Council, a different group than selected the STAR Team Award winner. The \$5,000 cash award is sponsored by President James T. Willerson, M.D.

Darlington began his career at the UT Health Science Center in September of 1982, arriving from the Graduate School of Yale

University, where he was associate dean for the Sciences. During his career at the health science center, Darlington has chaired seven health science center committees and been a member of 48 university committees.

A variety of people from around campus supported his nomination, including:

- Peter J. A. Davies M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president for Research, wrote: "...Paul Darlington has for 20 years been a leader of our university, quietly working to create the foundation of trust, respect and fairness that are the hallmarks of our graduate educational programs. He is a wonderful leader and worthy of the Jimenez Leadership Award."

- Robert Emery, Dr.PH., assistant vice president, Environmental Health and Safety,

said: "I have worked with Paul for a number of years and can never remember encountering him without a smile on his face. Surely in his day-to-day activities he encounters highs and lows, but he seems to outwardly be able to rise above any turbulence and to always keep his sights on the bigger picture — which is the mark of a true leader."

- Dianna M. Milewicz, M.D., Ph.D., professor and director, Medical Genetics/Internal Medicine, Medical School, wrote: "Dr. Darlington has directed the financial administration for the M.D./Ph.D. program for the past 23 years. Administering the budget for



Paul Darlington, Ph.D.

this program is extremely complex because of the multiple institutions involved and the fact that the students are moving between medical school and graduate school, along with being shifted from multiple sources of funding. As director of the M.D./Ph.D. program, I have been extremely pleased with Dr. Darlington's

administration of the program

"The program has never run a deficit and no student has ever gone without funding in the entire time that I have been director.

"Furthermore, Dr. Darlington participates in the oversight and mentoring of the stu-

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Schultz to Receive Prestigious Prince Mahidol Award for Medicine



Schultz's research in oral rehydration therapy has been a boon to third world children.

Stanley Schultz, M.D., professor of integrative biology and pharmacology and former dean of the Medical School, will travel to Thailand in January to receive the prestigious 2006 Prince Mahidol Award for Medicine for his contributions to the rationale that led to the development of oral rehydration therapy (ORT). ORT has been credited with saving the lives of millions afflicted with secretory diarrheas, such as cholera. This rationale also underlies the rehydrating effect of Gatorade.

"It's very gratifying for me, a medically trained basic scientist, to know that my contributions have not only had a major impact in the basic sciences, but have also led to a therapy that has benefited people," Schultz said. "It's one more example of translational, 'bench to bedside' research."

Established in 1992 to honor His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla and in recognition of the prince's exemplary contribution toward progress and advancement in the fields of medicine, public health, and social services, the Prince Mahidol Award is an international award presented to an individual or institution in the fields of medicine and public health.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand will confer the award Jan. 31, 2007, at the Chakri Throne Hall in the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand. Two Prince Mahidol Awards are granted a year. One award is given for "outstanding performance and/or research in the field of medicine for the benefit of mankind," and another award is given for "outstanding contribution in the field of public health for the sake of the well-being of the peoples."

A Picture of Oral Rehydration Therapy

Everyone stared at the small child sitting calmly at the table, eating. Just four hours before, she lay in her mother's arms, barely breathing, suffering from severe dehydration due to cholera. It was more than 30 years ago in Bangladesh, one of the many Third World countries plagued by cholera — an epidemic spread by bacteria-contaminated food and water.

A treatment called oral rehydration therapy restored the little girl to health, and today, this treatment is credited with saving millions of lives worldwide. The impact this therapy has had on health care is second only to vaccinations.

Oral rehydration therapy is based on pioneering research by Stanley Schultz, M.D., a longtime investigator, educator and administrator at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

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Happy Holidays

It's that time of year — to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve or any other occasion that is appropriate for you and yours. Here's a reminder about the schedule of upcoming full-closure and skeleton-crew holidays:

Monday, Dec. 25 — Full closure
Tuesday, Dec. 26 — Full closure
Wednesday, Dec. 27 — Skeleton crew

Thursday, Dec. 28 — Skeleton crew
Friday, Dec. 29 — Skeleton crew
Monday, Jan. 1 — Full closure

The Leader staff hope that your holidays will be filled with enough fun, family and friends to provide memories you'll cherish throughout 2007.



THE UNIVERSITY
of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
AT HOUSTON

Living Legacy: Explore Important Issues with Your Family

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Maybe you're part of a single-parent family that's filled with love but not much money.

Maybe your family has a profitable business and a large package of other assets.

Then, again, maybe you're from that proverbial middle class family — 2.5 kids and a dog — as well as a highly mortgaged dwelling and more debt left over from putting those 2.5 through college, and graduate school, and medical school . . .

Whatever your family monetary status, however, nearly every family has a number of legacies to be passed on to the next generation, according to certified financial planner Richard Kiley, the speaker at a recent Lunch and Learn seminar sponsored by the UT WorkLife Services program.

"If I do my job today, I will point you toward taking some action in your family based on the information I'll share with you. If you haven't done so, this a good time of

year to start talking to your family members about this since families frequently gather during the holidays," Kiley said.

It's best not to wait until an illness or health scare happens to begin the conversation because family members can be very sensitive and emotional at such times, he said. It's best to begin the conversation by talking about values and life lessons, rather than financial issues and "don't forget to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the process as a way to develop legacy discussions as an ongoing tradition."

A legacy, he said, includes all parts of a person's life: family traditions, history, values, wishes, as well as any financial inheritance.

Kiley offered a number of tips, taken from the Allianz American Legacies study, to follow when starting a conversation about the topic:

1) Values and life lessons cover ethics and moral teachings, faith and religion, and

family traditions and stories, such as

- a. A specific lesson or teaching to pass on to future generations.
- b. Religious convictions that provide guidance for your life and family.
- c. Favorite family stories to document.

2) Instructions and wishes to be fulfilled cover health and well-being directives, living arrangements, and final wishes and directives, such as

- a. Directives for life-support measures.
- b. A specific retirement or assisted living community you have considered.
- c. Specific ideas for funeral arrangements, burial or cremation.

3) Personal possessions of emotional value cover how and to whom they should be distributed, the passing on of pictures, journals, diaries, family histories, and household items, such as

- a. Collections or memorabilia with

emotional value to you and your family members.

- b. How you have designated who gets what.

4) Financial assets or real estate cover various items of financial value, your primary home and other land or dwellings, such as

- a. Have you had these assets appraised recently and how would you like them distributed?
- b. Do you have long-term care or life insurance?
- c. Do you want to leave gifts to charities or other organizations?

You may be surprised, Kiley said, about what other family members feel is most important.

Benefits-eligible employees can receive a referral to Rick Kiley for a free 30-minute phone consultation. Visit <http://www.uthouston.edu/worklife/> or contact Sam.Hester@uth.tmc.edu. ★

Compliance: Is It OK to Hire a Family Member as an HSC Employee?

Q: My department will post a new position with Human Resources next week for an administrative assistant. My daughter is looking for work. I think she would be great at this job and, as the hiring supervisor, I'd like to hire her. Can I do that?

A: Because you would be directly supervising your daughter, the answer to your question, "Can I do that?" is "No."

Why? Because The University of Texas

Health Science Center at Houston must obey Texas laws concerning the employment of relatives (nepotism). In general, individuals may not be employed in a position that would result in their being supervised directly or indirectly by a close relative. Two primary areas must be examined, says Karen Parsons, director, Institutional Compliance:

- Reporting Relationship: No employee of The University of Texas System or any of its institutions may approve, recommend or act

on the appointment, promotion or salary of a close relative.

This means that no employee is permitted to work within a direct reporting relationship when one close relative's work responsibilities, salary, hours, career progress, benefits or other employment issues could be influenced by the other relative. This includes all levels of administrative supervisors, from the lowest to the highest, not just the immediate supervisor.

- Close Relative: You also must consider

the way in which the two people are related. For university purposes, a "close relative" of an employee is defined as one of the following: parent, grandparent, child, brother or sister, aunt, uncle, cousin, spouse, or any spouse's relatives related to the spouse in the same degree as those previously mentioned.

For more information, consult the *Handbook on Operating Procedures*, Policy 2.25 or contact the Office of Legal Affairs and Institutional Compliance. ★

Darlington Named Second Jimenez Leadership in Action Award Winner

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dents in the program, a role that is critical for the progress of the students through this complex training program."

• Cheryl Spitzenberger, assistant to the dean, UT-GSBS wrote: "I've worked with Paul Darlington for nearly 24 years and believe he's perfect for the leadership award. Paul leads by example, with a gentle hand. He is so good himself that he makes you strive to do your very best. He has a way of untangling even the worst situations, patiently collecting facts until the solutions become clear. Paul also brought order to the GSBS administration — we call him 'Gridley' because he drew up elaborate grids for orientation and graduation, outlining who would do what and when. We had never heard of such a thing! But he was right, and under his steady leadership we now have nearly seamless events that improve every year. Paul is one of the best

things that ever happened to GSBS and the HSC, and he genuinely deserves this award."

• Jeannice Theriot, database and software administrator, GSBS, who shepherded Darlington's nomination, said: "Paul invited me to consider database training in order to develop a new information system for the GSBS where he envisioned all the school's applicant, student, faculty and alumni information would reside. I owe my transition from administrative support to software developer solely to the mentoring, support and vision of Paul Darlington. In this one vision he not only changed the career of a staff member, he also ushered in a new system which re-engineered labor-intensive tasks performed by all of the GSBS staff. In doing so he increased the school's overall productivity significantly. Without exception, we staff members find Paul to be intelligent, skillful, pleasant and

very willing to help us find solutions to our work needs. I believe Paul sets the bar for what leadership should be in the HSC and hope you will agree with me."

• Athanasia Panopoulos, Ph.D., GSBS student: "The impressions and examples students acquire in graduate school are very important. They help define what kind of students we become, what kind of teachers we become, what kind of leaders we become, and in many ways, what kind of

people we become. Paul serves as a perfect example of ways to combine warmth while maintaining professionalism, and guidance while maintaining discipline. He treats the students with respect, and it is always clear that they are his top priority. He raises graduate school expectations, but helps students believe that they can reach them. His ever-present enthusiasm and positive attitude are always uplifting. We all adore Paul, and his example will last a lifetime." ★

Others nominated for the Jimenez Award

In alphabetical order:
Michael Blackburn, Ph.D.
Linda Brannon
Jodie Conyers, Ph.D.
Charlie Figari
Deanna Hoelscher, Ph.D.

Robert Hunter, M.D., Ph.D.
Phil Johnson, M.D.
Paul Kattapong
Brent King, M.D.
Marylee Kott, M.D.
Catherine Moore

Randy Scott, Ph.D.
Christopher Smith, D.V.M.
Linda Soliz
John Valenza, D.D.S.

A Picture of Oral Rehydration Therapy

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Schultz's simple, elegant research showed that restoring the body's balance of salt and glucose resulted in rapid rehydration in the mucus lining of the intestines. A miracle cure in a small packet of sodium chloride, potassium chloride and glucose, mixed in a gallon of drinking water.

For his life-long work on the mechanisms of sodium and glucose coupled absorption in the small intestine, the American Physiological Society (APS) honored Schultz with the 2003 Daggs Award, a prestigious award given in recognition of distinguished contributions to the science of physiology and to the APS organization.

Also, the New York School of Medicine honored Schultz with the 2003 Solomon A. Berson Medical Alumni Achievement Award in Clinical Science, an award given for career contributions in clinical and basic science.

"I love research, but I'm a physician at heart, it's rewarding to know my finding has saved millions of lives yearly."

As happens so often in research, Schultz discovered the role of sodium in solute absorption almost accidentally. "I truly stumbled on the finding, but recognized it immediately," he said. "It was a very dramatic moment."

In 1962, while he was a captain in the medical corps at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Schultz studied how substances were transported across membranes. During a routine experiment, he noticed that when he added sugar and sodium to the mucosal surface of small intestinal tissue, an increase in total sodium transport occurred. This indicated that both sugar and sodium were transferred into the tissue simultaneously.

The finding was beautiful in its simplicity. Water re-absorption is coupled with sodium re-absorption in the body; therefore, increasing sodium and glucose levels in the gut would result in rapid rehydration. To prevent or treat dehydration, a person could drink a solution of sodium salts and glucose — a simple, effective and inexpensive cure.

"The mechanism of sodium absorption by the gut is now a standard model for the small intestine and the kidney," said Schultz, who is the holder of the Fondren Family Chair in Cellular Signaling at the Medical School. "It's turned out to be a universal mechanism by which many nutrients and solutes are absorbed."

Schultz has continued to study the mechanism of cellular membrane transport.

"My research pursuit is to dot every 'i,' cross every 't,' and to fully understand, at the cellular level, how epithelial cells absorb sodium," he said.

He believes in the pursuit of pure knowledge and in the understanding of natural phenomena. "Very often that understanding leads down paths to treatments of disease and an understanding that you never expected," he said. "That's the value of basic research. It doesn't start out with a great, useful treatment in mind — it starts out by trying to understand a phenomenon, but so often in science, this understanding has led to important discoveries. Discoveries that result in practical applications of great benefit to humankind."

Schultz received his M.D. degree from New York University College of Medicine. He taught biophysics at Harvard Medical School and was professor of physiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine before joining the UT Medical School.

Note: Part of this article is excerpted from a Distinctions article published in 2003.

Achieving a Financial Balancing Act

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

"All in all," says Kevin Dillon, executive vice president for Finance and Administration, "The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston did well in fiscal year 2005-06."

The university's financial goals are, always, Dillon notes, to:

- Support teaching, research and service;
- Achieve budgeted results (including commitments to UT System, such as staying off of System's "Financial Watch" status);
- Sustain and enhance institutional debt capacity, in order to support growth and strategic initiatives; and
- Maintain some level of reserves for emergencies, such as having 90 days of Medical Service Research and Development Plan expenditures retained, in cash.

Generally, says Dillon, "our best answer to the question, 'How'd we do, financially, last year?' is that FY2006's net income, after debt service transfers and capital asset

purchases (Education and General, Designated, Auxiliaries, Restricted), is \$18 million — 2.6% of nearly \$700 million of total, "current" revenues. Remove "Restricted" funds, and the margin is \$12 million.

That includes income from four fund groups, such as:

- Educational & General (state appropriation, tuition, certain sponsored programs);
- Designated (mostly practice plan, plus the large hemophilia pharmacy program, designated tuition, Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, most investment income);
- Auxiliary Enterprises (UT Professional Building and garage, student apartments, other parking, print shop, food services, etc.);
- Restricted (most sponsored research and gift funds).

For FY 2005, these same two figures were \$20 million for net income exclud-

ing restricted funds and \$9 million including restricted funds.

However, there is a "less simple" version, shown by the accompanying charts.

In summary, says Dillon, the UT Health Science Center had a good year financially in FY06:

- "We had a \$13 million (9%) increase in total state appropriation (vs. '05) and we didn't spend all of it. However, we're still not back to '02 levels — in nominal (let alone inflation-adjusted) terms — in state formula funding (but special item and Tuition Revenue Bond debt service areas have increased)."
- Auxiliary Enterprises earned a \$7 million margin (about half that, after depreciation).
- Investment income increased to \$18 million (or by \$3 million).
- Operating gift income increased to \$22 million (or by \$4 million). "Compared to several of our 'neighbors'

— and many academic health science centers nationally — our financial position is strong. We've had three straight years of positive financial margin and that's important because trends 'count,' especially with UT System.

"The UT Health Science Center does have borrowing capacity, so we can more easily undertake and complete facilities such as the Replacement Research Facility, the UT Research Center on the South Campus, and other future projects," Dillon says.

"In the four years since we (and all similar institutions) adopted a completely new, 'enterprise' financial reporting model (in FY 2002), the net assets of the UT Health Science Center — its assets less liabilities, and thus one of the best single measures of financial strength — have grown from \$471 million to \$831 million (or 76%; more than 15% per year, compounded).

"To have accomplished this concurrent with significant state funding reductions, is remarkable," he concludes. ★

FY 2005-06 Net Income (in millions):

	E&G	Designated	Auxiliary Enterprises	Restricted	Total
Operating Revenues:	\$228.3	\$244.8	\$24.3	\$144.7	\$642.1
Operating Expenses:	\$205.1	\$240.3	\$14.9	\$154.6	\$614.9
Operating Income:	\$23.2	\$4.5	\$9.4	(\$9.9)	\$27.2
Non-operating Revenues and Expenses:	\$1.8	\$11.2	\$0.7	\$27.9	\$41.6
Transfers:	(\$7.2)	(\$18.6)	(\$2.5)	(\$8.3)	(\$36.6)
Capital Asset Purchases:	\$3.8	\$6.5	\$0.3	\$3.5	\$14.1
Net Income:	\$14.0	(\$9.4)	\$7.3	\$6.2	\$18.1

FY 2004-05 Net Income (in millions):

	E&G	Designated	Auxiliary Enterprises	Restricted	Total
Operating Revenues:	\$206.2	\$232.7	\$21.7	\$133.0	\$593.6
Operating Expenses:	\$198.4	\$228.5	\$13.8	\$139.5	\$580.2
Operating Income:	\$7.8	\$4.2	\$7.9	(\$6.4)	\$13.5
Non-operating Revenues and Expenses:	\$0.8	\$13.3	\$0.2	\$16.0	\$30.3
Transfers:	\$1.8	(\$6.8)	(\$1.2)	(\$16.5)	(\$22.7)
Capital Asset Purchases:	\$1.2	\$5.6	\$0.9	\$4.6	\$12.3
Net Income:	\$9.2	\$5.1	\$6.0	(\$11.5)	\$8.8

FY 2005-06 Net Income (in millions), with depreciation instead of capital asset purchase:

	E&G	Designated	Auxiliary Enterprises	Restricted	Total
Operating Revenues:	\$228.3	\$244.8	\$24.3	\$144.7	\$642.1
Operating Expenses:	\$205.1	\$240.3	\$14.9	\$154.6	\$614.9
Operating Income:	\$23.2	\$4.5	\$9.4	(\$9.9)	\$27.2
Non-operating Revenues and Expenses:	\$1.8	\$11.2	\$0.7	\$27.9	\$41.6
Transfers:	(\$7.2)	(\$18.6)	(\$2.5)	(\$8.3)	(\$36.6)
Total Depreciation:	\$4.7	\$9.5	\$3.4	\$9.8	\$27.4
Net income:	\$13.1	(\$12.4)	\$4.2	(\$0.1)	\$4.8

FY 2004-05 Net Income (in millions), with depreciation instead of capital asset purchase:

	E&G	Designated	Auxiliary Enterprises	Restricted	Total
Operating Revenues:	\$206.2	\$232.7	\$21.7	\$133.0	\$593.6
Operating Expenses:	\$198.4	\$228.5	\$13.8	\$139.5	\$580.2
Operating Income:	\$7.8	\$4.2	\$7.9	(\$6.4)	\$13.5
Non-operating Revenues and Expenses:	\$0.8	\$13.3	\$0.2	\$16.0	\$30.3
Transfers:	\$1.8	(\$6.8)	(\$1.2)	(\$16.5)	(\$22.7)
Total Depreciation:	\$3.4	\$6.8	\$2.5	\$7.1	\$19.8
Net Income:	\$7.0	\$3.9	\$4.4	(\$14.0)	\$1.3

UT Academy Holds Innovations Conference

John Valenza, D.D.S., and colleagues from the UT Dental Branch at Houston, received the third place Innovations Award for “Clinical Simulation: Combining Realism Technology and Learning” at the third annual Innovations in Health Science Education Conference in October at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus at The University of Texas at Austin.

The themes for the conference, sponsored by The University of Texas Academy of Health Science Education, were Faculty Development and Educational Research.

L. Maximilian Buja, M.D., executive vice president for academic affairs and president of the academy, presided at the meeting.

Other health science center academy members are Frank Arnett, M.D., Medical School (MS); L. Kay Bartholomew, Ed.D., School of Public Health; Eugene Boisubin, M.D., MS, Marianne Marcus, Ed.D., School of Nursing; John McMahon, Ph.D., MS; Philip Orlander, M.D., MS; Leslie Roeder, D.D.S., Dental Branch; and Gary Rosenfeld, Ph.D., MS.

The academy also awarded six small grants to faculty for new projects. Three of the six small grants awarded went to UT Medical School at Houston faculty:

- Chitra Chandrasekhar, M.D., “Computer Assisted Radiology Education (CARE): Curriculum Development For Medical Students”;



Joe Ontiveros, D.D.S., foreground, demonstrates how a model would be shown at the instructor's station of the Clinical Simulation & Learning Center and then broadcast to the student monitors, such as the one where John Valenza, D.D.S., is seated. Photo by Brian Schnupp

- Allison Ownby, Ph.D., “Using Standardized Patients and Individual Learning Plans to Refine Residents’ Professional Behavior and Communication Skills”; and
- David Robinson, M.D., and collaborator Joanne Oakes, M.D., “The WECARE program: The Women’s Early Comprehensive Cardiac Assessment and Risk Education Program.”

More details about the academy and the Innovations in Health Science Education Conference are online at <http://www.utsystem.edu/academy/hsc/>.

— **Camille Webb and Pamela Lewis** contributed to this article

★ ★ ★ NewsBriefs ★ ★ ★

\$2.7 Million Grant Will Boost Discovery at Gulf Coast Institutions

The John S. Dunn Foundation has made a gift of \$2.7 million to support the acquisition of sophisticated robotics and large collections of chemical compounds and molecular reagents to support drug discovery research by investigators from six Gulf Coast institutions.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston will serve as the project’s lead institution on behalf of the Gulf Coast Consortia (GCC), a collaborative alliance for interdisciplinary bioscience training and research composed of Baylor College of Medicine, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Rice University, the University of Houston, the UT Medical Branch at

Galveston and the UT Health Science Center.

“This special gift from the Dunn Foundation will propel the research within our GCC institutions forward in new ways and open novel experimental avenues to our investigators across the region,” said Kathleen Matthews, Ph.D., GCC Oversight Committee chair and dean of Natural Sciences at Rice University. “We are deeply appreciative of the on-going support of the Dunn Foundation in our GCC research programs.”

The program, to be known as the John S. Dunn Gulf Coast Consortium for Chemical Genomics, will jump-start the work of scientists at all participating GCC institutions by

helping to provide the infrastructure, equipment, genomics libraries and seed grants necessary to speed new drug discoveries.

“This support from the Dunn Foundation will enable the Gulf Coast Consortia to put in place an academic drug discovery program that will speed the translation of basic research discoveries into new avenues for the treatment of human diseases,” said Peter J. A. Davies, M.D., Ph.D., health science center executive vice president for Research. Davies also is director of the John S. Dunn Gulf Coast Consortium for Chemical Genomics.

— **David R. Bates**

Parents’ Racial Messages Impact African-American First Graders, Researcher Says

The impact of an African-American parent’s messages to his or her child about race differs depending on the types of neighborhood in which they live, finds a study by lead investigator Margaret O’Brien Caughy, Sc.D., associate professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at the UT School of Public Health’s Dallas Regional Campus. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development funded the study, which was published in a recent issue of *Child Development*.

Previous research has shown that African-American parents who inspire racial pride and awareness in their home raise children with better cognitive development and fewer behavioral problems, while the children of parents who promote racial stereotyping often have more

behavior problems. Researchers wanted to learn if those findings were consistent in a wide range of neighborhoods.

The study included 241 African-American first-grade students and their parents who live in a variety of neighborhoods in an urban area. Researchers asked the parents questions about their attitudes on parenting, how they talk about race with their child, and if they prepare their child for discrimination. The researchers also noted whether the home contained books, music, artwork and other elements reflecting African-American culture. Finally, the researchers interviewed the child to determine his/her cognitive development.

“We found that a home rich in African-American culture was associated with better cognitive development

for first graders who lived in high-risk neighborhoods,” Caughy said. “High-risk neighborhoods” were defined as areas with high poverty, signs of physical disorder such as trash and graffiti, and fear among residents.

Researchers also found that a parent telling a child not to trust another race could cause more behavioral problems for a child living in a low-risk neighborhood, but not for a child living in a high-risk neighborhood.

Caughy cautioned that there is “no one size fits all” when it comes to raising a child. “Our study just supports the conclusion that messages about race affect young African-American children differently depending on the community in which they live,” she said.

— **Melissa McDonald**

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 15 - JANUARY 14

Please send Calendar items for the February issue of *The Leader* which covers Feb. 15-March 14, to Pamela.Lewis@uth.tmc.edu by Jan. 18.

★ December

20 — President’s Update, noon, Sarofim Research Building Auditorium.

25-26 — Christmas Holidays (full closure)

27-29 — Christmas Holidays (skeleton crew)

★ January

1 — New Year’s Day Holiday (full closure)

5 — “Intervention Studies to Prevent Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders,” noon, School of Public Health Auditorium.

9 — Clinical Research Nurse/Coordinator Education 101 Course: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.,

Jan. 9 and 10; 8:30-noon, Jan. 11; 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 16; 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Jan. 17; and 8:30-11:30 a.m., Jan. 18, Medical School Building (MSB), Room B.605.

10 — HR Employee Motivation Course, 9-11 a.m., MSB, Room B.645.

15 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day (full closure)

Calendar listings received after deadline for *The Leader* can be found online at <http://publicaffairs.uth.tmc.edu/calendar/>. To submit an item to the online calendar, visit http://publicaffairs.uth.tmc.edu/calendar/submitevent_new.asp.

Medical School Dean Search Progresses

Several internal and external candidates have been interviewed during the search for the next dean of the Medical School. After concluding interviews, the committee will forward its short list of candidates to President James Willerson, M.D., who will interview the candidates and make a selection.

Search committee members: From the HSC: Brent King, M.D., chair; Frank Arnett, M.D.; Marsha Brody-Silva, ex officio; Kevin Dillon; Susan John, M.D.; Samuel Kaplan, Ph.D.; Gary Rosenfeld, Ph.D.; George Stancel, Ph.D.; Peter Davies, M.D., Ph.D.

From partners: Juanita Romans, Memorial Hermann Hospital-Texas Medical Center; Elizabeth Shpall, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

— **Melissa McDonald**



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The Leader is published monthly for faculty, staff and students of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston by the Office of Institutional Advancement, 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 Institutional Advancement, University Center Tower, 1200, or fax to 713-500-3037. For information regarding *The Leader*, call Pamela Lewis, 713-500-3040.

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