

Medical School Sees Administrative Changes

Interim Dean Appointed, Search Begins

Jerry Wolinsky, M.D., the Bartels Family Professor in Neurology at the Medical School, began serving as interim dean of the school June 1. He will continue in that role until a successor is named following a search to identify and recruit a new dean. The search committee includes Michael McKinney, M.D., (chair), Frank Arnett, M.D., Kevin Dillon, Samuel Kaplan, Ph.D., Susan John, M.D., Gary Rosenfeld, Ph.D., and George Stancel, Ph.D.

"These developments are required as a result of Dean Stanley Schultz's prolonged and continuing recovery from his medical problems," James T. Willerson, M.D., president of the UT Health Science Center, said. "We are very optimistic Dr. Schultz will recover, and he will remain a strong advisor and leader in the dean's office at our Medical School following his recovery."

Wolinsky and McKinney, who has been acting as dean during Schultz's absence, worked together in the dean's office until June 1 when McKinney returned full time to his responsibilities as senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of the health science center.

Wolinsky, who also holds the Opal Rankin Professorship in Neurology, has been with the Medical School for 23 years and has watched it develop and change over those years. He said he is honored to be chosen for the new role as interim dean and will not take the new task lightly.



Jerry Wolinsky, M.D.

"I have gone into it realizing that it has great importance for the school to attempt to fill the enormous gap left by Dr. Schultz's prolonged illness," he said. "I hope that I can certainly live up to his standards. We look forward to the search for a permanent successor for Dr. Schultz to move forward rapidly, but I surely do not intend to be a passive caretaker for the office."

Wolinsky said that the short time he has spent in the Dean's Office has given him quite a new perspective on the many strengths and weaknesses of the Medical School. "I hope that I will be able to bring some fresh

approaches to attempts at solving some of our problems and leveraging our many new assets to better realize the enormous potential of the institution as a leading force in the Houston medical community and beyond."

Wolinsky is also director of the Multiple Sclerosis Research Group and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Analysis Center. He will take a sabbatical from his clinical activities, but research at the center will continue.

"To keep the clinical aspects going for the time I'm in the dean's office, my clinical activities will be ably carried out by my colleagues in the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic, including Drs. Staley Brod, J. William Lindsey, and Flavia Nelson," Wolinsky said.

Admissions and Student Affairs to Combine

Margaret McNeese, M.D., currently associate dean for student affairs at the Medical School, will assume the title of associate dean for admissions and student affairs July 1. Al Gunn, M.D., current associate dean for admissions is stepping down from that appointment. He will serve as a special adviser to President James T. Willerson, M.D., to Interim Dean Wolinsky and to McNeese for the rest of the academic year.

"Dr. Gunn has led the Office of Admissions for the past 27 years with steadfast commitment and dedication to our students and our mission," said Michael McKinney, M.D., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer. "His guidance contributed to the growth and maturity of our

school, and we are all appreciative of his service."

McNeese has begun the transition to her new duties. Assisting her in admissions will be Judianne Kellaway, M.D., newly appointed assistant dean for admissions.

"Combining admissions and student affairs into one office should provide seamless services and attention to prospective and current students," McKinney said.

Three Medical School Department Chairs Plan to Step Down

Three department chairs at the Medical School recently have announced their plans to step down from their leadership roles

Larry Gilstrap, M.D., chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, has announced his resignation as chair effective at the end of August. A search committee, headed up by Michael Bungo, M.D., vice dean for clinical affairs, has been formed to expedite the process to find a new chair for the department.

Gilstrap will join the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Dallas as director of evaluation, but he will continue his activities with the Residency Review Committee. He has been with the Medical School for 10 years.

"Under Dr. Gilstrap's leadership, the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences has thrived and gotten stronger," said Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky, M.D.. "He has served as a tremendous men-

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Classified Staff Members 'Free' Themselves during UCSC Workshop

By Erika Durham Hargrove, Public Affairs

It wasn't a fast process and some needed more convincing than others. But as the speakers spoke and the stories were shared, the masks began to come off and those in the audience began to free themselves.

Three hundred classified staff members of the UT Health Science Center at Houston were encouraged to ask themselves, "Who's Behind the Mask?" during the 11th annual University Classified Staff Council Workshop. They were encouraged to discover their true career goals, work hard toward those goals and mentor someone else along the way.

Headliner George L. Dempsey, Ph.D., a clinical and corporate psychologist, inspired the group to seek out their true purpose and change their lives. "If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten," he said. "If you want to change your life, you have to change your life. It's that simple."

Dempsey spent most of the day inspiring the audience to evaluate their circumstances and think critically about their lives.

However it was Shannon Prater, support specialist in Human Resources, who drew the standing ovation.

Prater, who is known for her jovial personality and exceptional people skills, told the group of her peers how she



Renez Pasley, Mail Services, and Beverly Darby, Medical School, get acquainted at the workshop

went through several years of working in positions that she knew she was not meant to occupy. Until one day, through a combination of doors opened and relationships formed, she discovered what she truly wanted to be — a firefighter.

After becoming aware of her dream, she worked toward it by enrolling in the academy and applying herself. She is now certified to fight fires.

"You are the one that has to look at yourself in the mirror each day. You can go through a lot of transitions before you find out who you really are and who you want to be," she said. "But it's okay, as long as you keep striving to be that person."

Throughout her talk Prater put on pieces of her firefighter uniform. First, the jumpsuit, then the boots. At the close of the talk, Prater said "I wear many hats, but this is the one I enjoy the most," she said topping off her outfit with her firefighter helmet. The crowd erupted.

Mary Maher, chief Human Resources Officer, said Shannon's success in working toward her goal exemplifies the benefit of quality management. Prater's former supervisor, the late Michael Jimenez, who served as associate vice president for Human Resources, encouraged Prater's growth.

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The annual event was held in the Heritage Ballroom of the Houston Grand Plaza Hotel. Photos by Erika Durham Hargrove

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Annual Food Drive Returns

From Monday, June 26, through Tuesday, July 11, the UT Health Science Center at Houston will raise funds and collect food to benefit Houston's hungry. Help coordinate the food drive in your area by serving as a food drive coordinator or food drive helper. The UT Food Drive is part of the annual Texas Medical Center Spirit of Texas Food Drive. To volunteer to help, contact Elease.PJenkins@uth.tmc.edu; 713-500-3035. For more information, visit http://www.uthouston.edu/community/food_drive/index.html.



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