

★★★ NewsBriefs ★★★

HSC Clinical and Translational Sciences Center Receives \$36 Million NIH Grant

The UT Health Science Center has been designated, in collaboration with UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, as a Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences, supported by a five-year, \$36 million grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The center is one of only 12 in the nation and the only one in Texas. This marks a clear affirmation of our vision to become a recognized leader in health promotion and disease prevention, said James T. Willerson, president of the health science center. The other institutions with such centers include Columbia University Health Science Center, Duke, Mayo Clinic, Oregon Health and Science University, Rockefeller University, University of California at Davis, UC San Francisco, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Rochester, and Yale.

Frank C. Arnett, M.D., is the health science center's principal investigator on the grant and newly appointed director of the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences (CCTS). Co-directors include Pablo C. Okhuysen, M.D., professor and program director of the University Clinical Research Center; Jon E. Tyson, M.D., professor and director of the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine; and Razelle Kurzrock, M.D., professor of medicine at M. D. Anderson.

The center, to be constructed on the top floor of the UT Medical School at 6431 Fannin, is expected to be completed within the next year. It will represent an expansion of the University Clinical Research Center at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and the Center for Clinical Research and Evidence-Based Medicine at the UT Medical School.

Lee chosen for prestigious Pioneer Award by NIH

Deemed a true pioneer in groundbreaking research, Cheng Chi Lee, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, is one of only 13 winners of the prestigious 2006 National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award.

"The 2006 Pioneer Award recipients are a diverse group of forward-thinking scientists whose work could transform medical research," Elias Zerhouni, M.D., director of the National Institutes of Health, said when announcing the award. "The awards will give them the intellectual freedom to pursue exciting new research directions and opportunities in a range of scientific areas, from computational biology to immunology, stem cell biology, nanotechnology, and drug development."

From the award, Lee will receive \$2.5 million in direct costs over five years to study suspended animation in non-hibernating mammals. Lee said the award is not only a win for himself but represents an even bigger win for science and for the Medical School.

"I felt very excited for the school itself to have science at this level," Lee said. "I hope this award will also highlight the quality of science that's coming out of UT."

Progressive Leadership Changes Enhance DB, MS Goals

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keep, emphasize and pursue excellence in education of both undergraduate students and pediatric dentistry residents to prepare the best-educated oral health professionals.

Also, he wants to keep his department well-informed about new developments and opportunities to promote individual accountability for the department and create a culture that builds employee loyalty and satisfaction to the department, Dental Branch, and the university.

"I feel that this is a perfect environment which will allow me to serve children and the pediatric dentistry community the best. Also, I see that the level of energy and achievement at the Dental Branch is very high. I feel this school is poised to become one of the best schools in the U.S. and a world-class center," he said.

— Erika Durham Hargrove, Dental Branch

Ramin Appointed Chair of Ob/Gyn for Medical School

Susan M. Ramin, M.D., professor and director of the maternal-fetal medicine division at the UT Medical School at Houston, Sept. 1 became chair of the school's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences.

"Dr. Ramin has been on our faculty since 1999, joining us following a long tenure at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas," said Medical School Interim Dean Jerry S. Wolinsky, M.D., announcing the appointment. "She



Susan M. Ramin, M.D.

has led one of the 14 National Institutes of Health Maternal-Fetal Medicine Network Centers, and her work in the center will continue. I am confident that, as chair, she will be an asset to the department and medical school."

Ramin replaces Larry Gilstrap, M.D., who announced his plans in May to step down as department chair after serving for 10 years.

Michael Bungo, M.D., vice dean for clinical affairs at the medical school, led the nationwide search for Gilstrap's replacement. "We are enthusiastic about the committee's choice and Dr. Ramin picking up where her predecessor left off," Bungo said.

Ramin, who holds the Berel Held, M.D., Professorship in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, will continue to see patients and do clinical research for the National Institutes of Health Maternal-Fetal Medicine Network at the school.

She received her medical degree from the University of Minnesota and completed her residency and fellowship at UT Southwestern. ★

— Melissa McDonald, Institutional Advancement

UT Health Science Center Sells South MacGregor Tract

By David R. Bates, Institutional Advancement

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston has sold a 4.31 acre parcel of land known as the former Wright Morrow Estate. Located at 3028 South MacGregor Way, the tract is adjacent to the UT Harris County Psychiatric Center, near Texas 288.

The total purchase price for the property was \$4.55 million. The purchaser was Cypresswood Capital, Ltd., located in The Woodlands. Womack Development and Investment Realtors listed the property for sale.

The health science center purchased the property in 2002 as the new site for its Mental Sciences Institute (MSI), currently housed at 1300 Moursund in the Texas Medical Center.

Proceeds from the Sept. 25 sale will be used for construction of a new MSI facility.

The MSI provides teaching, research and administrative space for the UT Medical School at Houston's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, chaired by Robert Guynn, M.D.

The new MSI building will join three other new construction projects by the UT Health Science Center slated for the area known as the UT Research Park. A \$90 million UT Dental Branch Replacement Building is planned nearby, along with a \$62 million Biomedical Research and Education Center for teaching and scientific investigation, including adult stem cell research. The Center for Advanced Biomedical Imaging Research building, which is a collaborative project with The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, is in development on the South Campus in the same area. ★

Walk for Your Heart and Others'

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HSC Heart Walk Teams

Captains

Administration

Erica T. Team	Erica Torres
Heather Spell's Team	Heather Spell
Monica Ritter's Team	Monica Ritter
Sondra Faul's Team	Sondra Faul
Team UT	Lauren Hughey
Gail De la Rosa's Team	Gail De la Rosa

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

GSBS HealthyHearts	Vaibhav Juneja
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School of Public Health

Students for HOPE	Margaret Anderson
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UT Dental Branch

Cake Walkers	Carolyn Harty
Elda Ramirez's Team	Elda Ramirez
Evelyn Hardy's Team	Evelyn Hardy
Inga-Lill Team	Inga-Lill Leon
Psi Omega	Niki Benamoz
Two Steppers	Nancy Frias
UT Dental Branch	Mamie Ellis

UT Medical School

Dr. Milewicz's Team	Erin Nies
I'll Study Later	David Stewart
Tamara Smith's Team	Tamara Smith
UT Cardiology	Mary Vooletich
UT Cardiology / Healthy Hearts Matter	Sheryl & Mike Murphy
Val's Team	Valerie Gracia
Walking Hearts	Essie Gonzalez

UT School of Nursing

Class of 2008	Sylvia Brown
Horns Against Heart Disease	Paige Owen
JoAnn Mendoza's Team	JoAnn Mendoza
KT's Team	Karen Tully
Sonia Prasad's Team	Sonia Prasad
UT School of Nursing SGO	Cheryl Pfennig



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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