

A campus newspaper for faculty, staff and students at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

It's All in a Day's Work for the Office of International Programs

By Leslie S. Gerber, for Institutional Advancement

Recent Office of International Programs Event



INSERM, the French Institute of Health and Medical Research, sent a delegation to the UT Health Science Center Feb. 8. Information about the health science center was presented to the delegation, and Jean-Jacques Lawrence, Ph.D., scientific attaché, INSERM's U.S. office, gave a general presentation about the institute.

Pictured, left to right, Isabelle Porteret, INSERM-Paris, coordinator of external recruitment policy; Jean-Jacques Lawrence, Ph.D., INSERM-Representative in the USA and Scientific Attaché, Embassy of France; Frank C. Arnett, M.D., professor of Internal Medicine, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and holder of the Elizabeth Bidgood Chair in Rheumatology, who is also director, Center for Research Translation in Scleroderma, and executive director, Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences; Hui-Ming Chang, M.D., vice president, Office of International Programs; Richard Salives, Ph.D., INSERM-Paris, Office for Young Scientists; Professor Roland Hérouin, attaché for Science and Technology, General Consulate of France in Houston; and Romaric Fayol, deputy attaché, General Consulate of France.

International Programs' Annual Awards

As Vice President for International Programs, Hui-Ming Chang, M.D., believes strongly in the tremendous need to extend the global influence of the UT Health Science Center. She initiated an award program in 2005 that provides seed money for projects to recognize faculty and students whose international collaborations not only benefit the awardees but enhance the international scope of the health science center.

The 2006 recipients are:

Faculty:

- Janet Hood, D.D.S., assistant professor of Restorative Dentistry, Dental Branch, for a 15-day mission trip to Nicaragua to provide medical and dental care;

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In its 35 years, the UT Health Science Center at Houston has developed an impressive array of international affiliations at more than 90 institutions in 30 different countries. Managing and nurturing these connections is the work of the Office of International Programs under the leadership of Hui-Ming Chang, M.D., who serves as vice president and special advisor to James T. Willerson, M.D., health science center president.

In an increasingly interconnected world, the importance of international collaboration continues to grow and the development of a rich, complex network of affiliations takes

place in a highly competitive arena. The health science center seeks to create ongoing relationships with international universities and institutions with strong reputations and high quality programs.

And you might be surprised at just who comes to visit. In late March, for example, a group of nine physicians from Iran, who are interested in public health safety, came to the School of Public Health. They visited under a program arranged by the U.S. State Department and the Institute of International Education. Scott Lillibridge, M.D., director, Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness, and Robert J.

Emery, Dr.P.H., assistant vice president, Safety, Health, Environment and Risk Management, were the SPH spokesmen to the group. Emery also is associate professor of Occupational Health at the school.

As a young institution, the UT Health Science Center has made great strides in attracting those connections with both prestigious, top-level international schools and scholars, according to Dr. Chang. This translates to open doors in both directions for student exchange and research programs with an international outlook.

"We are fortunate in that the Texas Medical Center is a very international

environment," Dr. Chang says. "We are fortunate in terms of the number of faculty and fellows engaged in international research."

The mission of the Office of International Programs is to optimize these opportunities by facilitating formal agreements of cooperation between the health science center and its international partners.

Collaboration might once have been handled by a handshake at a scientific conference. But this is a more complex world, so now legal agreements help cement ties and expand collaborations. An agreement of cooperation initiated by one faculty member may lead to

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School of Nursing at Houston Ranks among Top 5 Percent in U.S.

By David R. Bates, Institutional Advancement

The University of Texas School of Nursing now ranks among the top 5 percent of the nation's nursing schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2008 edition of the influential "America's Best Graduate Schools" guide. The School of Nursing moved up in the rankings to 19th from 29th among 395 master's programs surveyed.

Its gerontological/geriatric nursing program is ranked No. 8 of the top 10 in this specialty.

The school also earned the No. 2 spot in the "Nursing-Anesthesia" category for its

U.S. Army Graduate Program in Anesthesia Nursing.

"These outstanding rankings for the UT School of Nursing at Houston are great news and very well deserved, reflecting the superb leadership and initiative of Dean Patricia Starck, her wonderful faculty and staff, and the outstanding students at the school," said James T. Willerson, M.D., president of the UT Health Science Center at Houston. "The support of UT System Executive Vice Chancellor Kenneth Shine and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has

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Dean Patricia Starck, D.S.N., in the School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Photo by Nash Baker

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Join In United To Serve

Mark your calendars for The University of Texas System-wide Outreach Day, Saturday, April 21. It's your time to "Inspire by Example." All UT System Schools will participate in a volunteer initiative called "United To Serve," during National Volunteer Week.

The UT Health Science Center United To Serve steering committee, spearheaded by students, invites other students, as well as faculty and staff, to volunteer two hours of time that day at one of the area hospitals, or at other events in and around the Texas Medical Center. The event kicks off with a free breakfast gathering for volunteers.

Choose one of the United To Serve volunteer venue options at http://www.uthouston.edu/community/united_to_serve/opportunities.html, and then fill out a volunteer form at http://www.uthouston.edu/community/united_to_serve/forms/2007SignUp.html.

See you there! ★



THE UNIVERSITY
of TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
AT HOUSTON