

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 Hérimo, 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](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](http://www.uthouston.edu/community/united_to_serve/forms/2007SignUp.html).

See you there! ★



**THE UNIVERSITY**  
*of TEXAS*  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER  
AT HOUSTON

# SPH Professor Promoted to HSC Senior VP for Strategic Planning



Osama Mikhail, Ph.D.

Osama I. Mikhail, Ph.D., professor of Management and Policy Sciences at the UT School of Public Health, where he teaches courses in strategic planning and health care finance, has been promoted to the new position of senior vice president, Strategic Planning, for the health science center. He reports to Kevin Dillon, executive vice president for Administration and Business Affairs, and Chief Financial Officer. Deanne Hernandez, manager, Strategic Planning and Institutional Analysis, reports to Dr. Mikhail.

Dr. Mikhail has been at the School of Public Health since 1989 and involved in strategic planning for 30 years at the Mead Corporation, Eli Lilly, the Sisters of Charity

Healthcare System and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System. He also has been a consultant on strategic planning at Westchester Medical Center in New York, at Duke University and Vanderbilt University Medical Centers, as well as for several large physician groups in Houston.

"Dr. Mikhail's promotion to senior vice president for Strategic Planning for the UT Health Science Center represents a unique opportunity — one that will greatly enhance the strategic planning initiative of our institution," said Dillon in announcing the promotion. "We need people like Osama around here who are able to step back and help Dr. Willerson, Dr. King and the deans to systematically take a longer view."

Dr. Mikhail says his immediate focus will be on:

- enhancing a process for strategic planning for the UT Health Science Center at Houston;
- development of the upcoming Compact with the UT System;
- looking for more interconnections among the health science center schools, institutes, centers and units from a strategic perspective; and
- strategic planning for strengthening of relationships with Texas Medical Center institutions. ★

## Medical School Veteran Returns to Lead LBJ Hospital

By Camille Webb, Medical School

Steven Brown, M.D., former Medical School faculty member, has been announced by Interim Dean Jerry Wolinsky, M.D., as the new chief of staff of the Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and associate dean for Harris County Programs at the Medical School, effective mid-April.

"We are very fortunate to have recruited Dr. Brown back to the Medical School," Wolinsky said. "His past experience with our system and the district, development of the compensation plan at Tyler, and honed analytic skills while at Navigant should serve us well. I have charged Steve to take the LBJ campus to a new level of excellence in care and to help it evolve into the premier site for the maturation of our next generations of academicians."

Dr. Brown came to the Medical School in 1991 as an assistant professor of internal medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and was promoted to an associate professor in 1997. He also served as vice chief of staff of LBJ General Hospital from 1999-2002.

He said he looks forward to returning to lead one of the Medical School's primary teaching hospitals and will work to advance the missions of the school.

"My goal will be to nurture an environment conducive to excellent clinical care, education, and research," Dr. Brown said. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, and patients involved with the Harris County Programs that have become an increasingly important component of UT Medical School's teaching, research, and clinical portfolio. The clinical diversity and volume at LBJ General Hospital and associated clinics provides



Steven Brown, M.D., new chief of staff at LBJ

a rich educational environment for trainees at all levels and a challenge to provide efficient, high quality medical care to the citizens of Harris County."

Most recently, Brown was a medical director in the health care division of Navigant Consulting Inc., an international, multi-faceted consulting firm that provides support to a variety of public, academic, nonprofit and group practice entities in areas of hospital management, facilities assessment, revenue cycle, contracting, performance improvement, market assessment, strategic planning, physician compensation and relations between hospitals and physicians.

Before Navigant Consulting, Dr. Brown served as the chief medical officer of The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler and regional vice president for medical affairs for the Kern Service Area of Catholic Healthcare West.

Dr. Brown received his medical degree from The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and a pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine and critical care medicine. Dr. Brown is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and the American College of Physicians.

Peter Doyle, M.D., assistant professor and director of the LBJ anesthesiology service, has been the interim director of LBJ General Hospital since Feb. 1.

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

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been crucial for this accomplishment. We are very proud of the UT nursing school as it continues to raise the bar in the education of the nursing profession."

The school shared the same category as those at such renowned universities as Columbia University, the University of Virginia, Vanderbilt University and The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing.

"Our faculty members have worked hard to achieve this recognition, and without the support of our president and other officials at the university, we could not have achieved this goal this quickly," said Patricia L. Starck, D.S.N., dean of the nursing school. "It is especially welcome that being in the top five percent comes in the year that we are celebrating our school's 35th anniversary."

Starck added that the high rankings reflect the dedication to teaching, research, and practice shared by her nursing faculty, as well as the hard work of the school's students,

who make up one of the most diverse populations in U.S. nursing education.

In June 2004, the school moved into its university-owned, purpose-designed building, the \$57-million School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Starck welcomed the new, eight-story building with its imaginative, award-winning design. "Our new facilities have the latest in audiovisual and information technologies to enable flexibility in the teaching and learning process," she said. "It enables innovative ways to alleviate a critical shortage of educated professionals in many branches of nursing."

The UT School of Nursing also has expanded its curriculum in significant ways. The Fall 2007 class became the first in Texas and one of only 11 in the country to work toward a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree.

"Our first class of 16 D.N.P. candidates represents a broad cross-section of nursing

practices," Starck said. "All are full-time nurse practitioners working in a variety of settings — from rural communities to focused medical disciplines such as oncology and cardiology in the Texas Medical Center here in Houston, and from pediatrics to long-term acute care. The diversity this class brings to the program is exceptional."

This year, the school received more than 1,300 applications for just 170 spots entering the basic B.S.N. and accelerated B.S.N. programs. More than 750 students are currently enrolled in the school, instructed by about 75 full- and part-time faculty members.

The UT School of Nursing ranks 31st among 102 schools of nursing that receive research dollars awarded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

New grants are funding a first-of-its-kind Pre-clinical Critical Care Laboratory (PCCL), which will prepare nursing students at all levels with superior assessment skills and the

understanding of the range of patient responses to illness, injury and treatment. It will complement the school's current research laboratories, test new protocols prior to bedside clinical trials and train interdisciplinary teams in advanced clinical care.

The school's community support group, PARTNERS, passed an impressive milestone this past year, topping the \$1 million mark in scholarship endowment, as well as establishing a \$100,000 PARTNERS Endowed Professorship. Since 1994 PARTNERS has funded 64 full-tuition scholarships and 31 faculty research projects.

"I believe that we are destined to achieve even higher rankings in the years to come," Starck said. "We will earn them with our dedication to providing the best, most comprehensive nursing education in the Texas Medical Center, the state and the country." ★

# The Defining Moment

## Seniors at UT Medical School Match to Residency Programs

By Meredith Raine and Natalie Wong Camarata, *Institutional Advancement*



Abeezar Shipchandler and his mother celebrate his acceptance into the internal medicine residency program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Photo by Deborah Mann Lake

For medical students, selecting the area of medicine they ultimately want to practice often comes down to one defining moment.

Abeezar Shipchandler, a senior at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, knew the instant his father had emergency surgery to clear heart blockages that he wanted to practice internal medicine and specialize in cardiology.

For classmate Wallace “Blake” McKinney, a future career in emergency medicine became apparent the moment he jumped onto a gurney to perform CPR on a trauma patient.

These students, along with more than 200 fellow Medical School seniors, came one step closer to fulfilling their career ambitions on March 15 when they participated in Match Day. The annual event is coordinated by the National Resident Matching Program.

This year, more than 15,000 U.S. medical school seniors competed alongside close to 13,000 independent applicants for almost 22,000 residency positions. Competition is intense, and not everyone gets a residency slot, but at the Medical School, all students matched to programs.

The top three areas of medicine Medical School students chose for residency training this year are internal medicine, pediatrics and anesthesiology.

### Internal medicine

**Christopher Wilson**, 27, and 29 other classmates will enter internal medicine residency programs this summer. As a high

school student from Wyoming, Wilson had the opportunity to attend a National Youth Leadership Forum in Medicine in Houston and hear James T. Willerson, M.D., president of the UT Health Science Center, talk about rewarding careers in cardiology and research. In 2000, Wilson returned to Houston to par-



Candace Horney picks up her envelope, which will reveal she is heading to Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center for her pathology residency. Photo by Natalie Wong Camarata

ticipate in the Medical School’s Summer Research Program in the laboratory of cardiologist Heinrich Taegtmeier, M.D. Wilson went on to enroll in the Medical School’s M.D./Ph.D. program, and is one of five students in the program who will graduate this year. As a student, he continued

to work in Taegtmeier’s lab studying cardiac metabolism in obesity. He will do his internal medicine residency at Yale University, and he ultimately wants to practice cardiology and continue his research.

**Abeezar Shipchandler**, 25, will do his internal medicine residency at University of Alabama at Birmingham. Like Wilson, he hopes to specialize in cardiology, drawn to it after his father and another family member had emergency heart surgeries. “I’m at home and most comfortable in medicine, and I ultimately want to practice in Texas,” Shipchandler said.

### Pediatrics

**Griselda Meza**, former mechanical engineer and mother of two, is one of 24 seniors who will do her residency in pediatrics. Meza, a native Spanish-speaker, was born in the town of Palmar Grande, Mexico. “Growing up we only went to the doctor when it was an absolute emergency, so I know how difficult access to health care is,” Meza says. “I eventually want to work serving an underprivileged community.” Meza, a graduate of Rice University, was the first in her family to attend college. She will do her pediatrics residency at Inova

### Emergency medicine

A dozen seniors matched to residency programs in emergency medicine. Among them are:

**Daniel Williams**, 34, upon learning that he will do his emergency medicine residency at the Medical School, said this is one of his proudest accomplishments. Williams spent almost a decade after high school trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. He worked in an auto parts warehouse and later joined the U.S. Army. It wasn’t until a two-week humanitarian mission in 1997 in the African nation of Benin that Williams realized he wanted to become a physician. “We were offering immunizations, and I got to see the doctors interact with the patients. I was impressed by how much they had to offer these people,” Williams said. “I thought, ‘I want to have something that meaningful to offer people.’” Williams hopes to go on more humanitarian missions, and he would ultimately like to practice emergency medicine in a rural area.

**Blake McKinney**, 31, has been training to handle emergencies since high school. At 17, he joined a volunteer fire department. In college, while studying biomedical science, he trained as an emergency medical technician, often spending time at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center’s Emergency Center. One day, a patient who was in the CT scanner stopped breathing. Legendary trauma surgeon James “Red” Duke, M.D., ordered McKinney to start CPR. “That’s when I knew I wanted to be an emergency physician,” McKinney said. McKinney, his wife and two sons will move to the West Coast for his residency at the University of California, Davis.

### Forensic pathology

**Candace Horney**, 26, is among eight students choosing a career in forensic pathology. Horney has been interested in this field of medicine since the sixth grade. She worked as a forensic examiner in Forensic Consultant Services in Fort Worth during her undergraduate studies at Austin College. Horney is originally from Fort Sumner, a New Mexico town that is still considered a frontier because it has so few residents.

Horney and her fiancé, a senior at Baylor College of Medicine, participated in the couples’ match. After their wedding, they will begin their residency programs at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

### General surgery

This year’s class president, **Christopher Durham**, 26, will do his residency in general surgery at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine. Durham credits his interest in surgery to his many mentors. “I’ve always wanted to be a surgeon, and working with the doctors at Memorial Hermann Hospital and LBJ Hospital confirmed that this is what I want to do,”

### Orthopedics

**Steven “Brad” Winter**, 26, of the Woodlands, is one of 12 seniors who will do residency training in orthopedics at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical School. Winter’s interest in the specialty began when he played sports in high school and college. “I played soccer in college and was the goalkeeper, so I gained a high respect for the doctors in sports medicine, especially after I broke all 10 of my fingers,” Winter said.

“We are very proud of our students,” said Margaret McNeese, M.D., associate dean of Admissions and Student Affairs. “They did exceptionally well this year and have matched in excellent residency programs throughout the United States.” ★

## PBS Series Examines Texas’ Innovative Solutions

Personal stories of patients, hurricane survivors, researchers, scientists and doctors are the stuff of “State of Tomorrow,”™ a documentary TV series depicting global issues and solutions on a human scale. Faculty members at the UT Health Science Center at Houston are among those interviewed for the series.

“State of Tomorrow” will debut on Houston’s KUHT-TV, Channel 8, at 11 p.m. Thursday, April 26. The 13 half-hour episodes then will air regularly in Houston on Thursdays at 11 p.m.

The series explores major challenges facing Texans today, including public health, homeland security, energy policy, economic development and education, among others.

“Public higher education offers solutions to many of the major challenges facing Texas, and it is important for Texans to know that whether or not they ever set foot on our campuses, we work to ensure that they are the beneficiaries of education’s

service to society,” said UT System Chancellor Mark G. Yudof.

Faculty from Texas A&M, Texas State, Texas Tech, University of Houston, University of North Texas and University of Texas university systems are featured in the series, representing a collaboration among Texas’ public higher education systems.

The series is co-produced by The University of Texas Foundation and Alpheus Media Inc. in partnership with public television station KLRU-TV, Austin PBS, and is paid for with private funding from sponsors including AT&T Inc., Exxon Mobil Corp., and IBC Bank, among others.

“State of Tomorrow” will air on all 13 PBS stations in Texas. The show has already launched in Austin and some of the other markets, and it will air on the remaining stations beginning in April.

Each episode addresses advances made possible by higher education. ★

Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.

### Anesthesiology

**Amy Graham-Carlson**, 29, of Deer Park, and 21 of her classmates will do residencies in anesthesiology. After graduating from UT Austin with an undergraduate degree in nursing, she worked in the medical field as a nurse for three years before attending medical school. “I’ve always known I wanted a career in the medical field, and I wanted to get my feet wet in the industry before I made the long-term commitment,” said Graham-Carlson. She will stay at the Medical School.

### Other specialties OB/gyn

**Gus Zamora**, 32, is among 11 students who are entering residency programs in obstetrics and gynecology. Zamora, a native of El Paso, will not only be the first doctor in his family, but was also the first to complete college. He became interested in ob/gyn because of the many challenges the women in his family faced. “It has been a long road for me, but many hardships have inspired me to continue with this career,” Zamora said. “My sister had a very difficult pregnancy, and my aunt raised a daughter with Down syndrome.” Zamora will begin his residency this summer at the Medical School’s ob/gyn program at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

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

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additional opportunities for other researchers and students at that same institution. For example, Anil Kulkarni, Ph.D., professor of surgery-research, at UT Medical School, initiated a relationship with the University of Tokushima in Japan for research with a 10-year exchange of researchers and students. After this collaboration was formalized in an Agreement of Cooperation that covers all six health science center schools, Amy Ridall, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant clinical professor of prosthodontics, Dental Branch, developed an exchange program for dental students.

Such formal agreements are necessary to define the terms of the relationship and limit its liability, Dr. Chang explains. The negotiation can be complex, involving verifying

credentials and validity of the programs, diplomacy, cultural sensitivity and many international e-mails. It is the main but not the only function of the office.

Everything about international collaborations comes through this office, said Dr. Chang. "I never know what the next e-mail will request.

#### The Office of International Programs:

- responds to requests for assistance in negotiating agreements, facilitating programs, organizing official visits, providing information to government entities and hosting international scholars;
- serves all schools, centers and institutes;
- provides reports to the governor's office and UT System;

- fosters international cultural awareness; and
- reaches out to the consular community in Houston.

The office also helps faculty members trying to establish cooperative programs by negotiating the exchange of data and the placement of students and researchers. "Smoothing the process on both sides takes persistence, patience and skillful maneuvering in a culture that may be unfamiliar," Dr. Chang explains.

This kind of support has been very beneficial for researchers like Herbert L. DuPont, M.D., holder of the Mary W. Kelsey Chair in Medical Sciences and director of the Center for Infectious Diseases at the UT School of Public Health. Dr. Dupont has an extensive

research program in several countries, including Mexico and Thailand, looking at the spread of infectious intestinal diseases.

When Dr. DuPont encounters roadblocks to his international program, either at home or in the partner nation, Dr. Chang is often able to speed the process along, cutting through red tape and getting things to happen. Without this support, he said, projects might be unnecessarily delayed or even derailed when timing is critical.

"The work is urgent," he says. "The problems in other countries are very much our problems as diseases in developing countries are introduced into the United States. We are only one 747 flight away from any disease. What helps us solve these problems in other countries, helps us solve them here." ★

## Thinking Globally Can Provide International Collaborations

To help students, teachers, or researchers explore potential opportunities for international study or research collaboration, the Office of International Programs provides background information, help with institutional approval, and other support.

The office fosters expansion of the partnerships under a legal Agreement of Cooperation by developing Program Agreements for additional collaboration with a specific institution. This protects the interest of the faculty, students and school. International Programs facilitates the development of these agreements, and can help make necessary connections.

- An example of this expansion is the

program agreement Frederick Moeller, M.D., professor, department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical School, negotiated with Maastricht University in the Netherlands to bring a student researcher from Maastricht to work under his supervision. The agreement was developed under the agreement of cooperation originated by Dean Guy Parcel, Ph.D., of the School of Public Health (SPH), who has had an ongoing relationship with Maastricht University for the past 10 years. His collaborative research has resulted in a book and several other scientific publications.

- Another mode for students to engage

in international education is a program called the Vietnam Education Foundation, an independent agency of the U.S. government that coordinates with the National Academy of Sciences to recruit and enroll Vietnamese students in universities here. The SPH and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences each have an agreement with VEF to do so.

- Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara has an agreement with the health science center that began with Herbert L. Dupont, M.D., who has worked in collaboration with the Mexican

university for more than 30 years. He is facilitating a similar arrangement with Mahidol University in Thailand. Both agreements allow for exchange of students and faculty. Students and faculty can visit the International Programs Web site at <http://www.uth.tmc.edu/internationalprograms> to view the entire list of institutions that have negotiated agreements of cooperation. Most are live links directly to each institution. For questions about the specific collaborations at an institution, contact Graciete Marques-Tavares, coordinator of Special Programs, 713-500-3559 or [internationalprograms@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:internationalprograms@uth.tmc.edu).

—Leslie S. Gerber ★

### International Programs' Annual Awards

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- **Kamal Busaidy, D.D.S.**, clinical assistant professor, Dental Branch, for creation of a program agreement with the Ministry of Health of the Sultanate of Oman to develop oral and maxillofacial surgical services;

- **Andrew Springer, Dr.P.H.**, postdoctoral fellow, School of Public Health (SPH), for a collaborative study with Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas Medical School on obesity in elementary school children in Latin America;

- **Sharon Ostwald, Ph.D.**, holder of the Isla Carroll Turner Chair in Gerontology, School of Nursing, for research on families of persons with dementia and replication of intervention research in Sardinia, Italy;

- **Robert Roberts, Ph.D.**, professor, Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, SPH, for a study concerning disturbed sleep among adolescents in the United States and Japan;

- **M. Sriram Iyengar, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Health Informatics, School of Health Information Sciences, for a collaborative software development project on the physical structure of mammalian cells with the Indian Institute of Science, India;

#### Students

- **Hui Zhao, M.D.**, student, SPH, for a survey of smoking behavior in medical students in China and the

creation of a smoking cessation program;

- **Serena Rodriguez**, student, SPH, for a trip to Kenya to research the nutritional status of adolescents orphaned by HIV/AIDS; and

- **Thien Chinh Vu**, student, SPH, for a conference in Vietnam to exchange training and research with SPH to develop a Vietnamese public health system.

## Commencement Speakers Announced



Texas First Lady Anita Perry will be principal speaker at the School of Nursing Commencement Ceremonies, May 4.

- **School of Health Information Sciences**, 4 p.m., Thursday, May 3, Beth Robertson Auditorium, Faye S. Sarofim Research Building: Featured speaker is C. Thomas Caskey, M.D., chief operating officer and director-/CEO-elect of The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases

- **School of Public Health**, 2 p.m., Friday, May 4, Edwin Hornberger Conference Center: Speaker is Houston Mayor Bill White. Now in his second term, Mayor White has assembled a task force of experts, including UT School of Public Health faculty, to help with ongoing efforts to reduce air quality health risks in Harris County.

- **School of Nursing**, 7 p.m., Friday, May 4, George R. Brown Convention Center: Principal speaker is Texas First Lady Anita Perry. Perry, who earned a master's degree in nursing from the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, spent a 17-year career in the health care profession that included nursing in the areas of surgery, pediatrics, intensive care and administration.

- **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**, 10 a.m., Saturday, May 5, Edwin Hornberger Conference Center: Principal speaker is Robert Wells, Ph.D., professor of biochemistry and biophysics and director of the Center for Genome Research at the Institute for Biosciences

and Technology, of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.

- **Dental Branch**, 4 p.m., Thursday, May 24, Cullen Performance Hall on the University of Houston campus: Speaking will be University of Texas System Chancellor Mark Yudof, LL.B.

- **Medical School**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 29, George R. Brown Convention Center: Principal speaker will be Wiley W. "Chip" Souba Jr., M.D., Sc.D., professor of surgery and dean of the College of Medicine at Ohio State University. Souba is a 1978 graduate of the Medical School. ★



THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON

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#### 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](mailto: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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