

# Administrative Changes at HSC and Medical School

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

Two promotions to vice president have been announced recently for the UT Health Science Center at Houston.

**Bruce D. Butler, Ph.D.**, has been promoted to vice president for research and technology at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Dr. Butler directs the Office of Technology Management and chairs the UT Health Science Center Intellectual Property Committee. Revenues since the office's inception have grossed over \$25.7 million for the health science center. The office oversees a patent portfolio of over 900 patents/applications and more than 100 active license/options agreements.

The Office of Technology Management handles technology transfer activities, including the creation of new start-ups for the six health science center schools and various institutes and for health science center faculty located at the Texas Heart Institute. The office has assisted in the creation of six start-up companies that have collectively raised more than \$50 million and employ over 400 people nationwide.

In addition to overseeing the commercialization of inventions by others, Dr. Butler is an inventor on 10 U.S. and associated foreign patents, six of which have been commercialized through the health science center. The inventions include respiratory health care products and biopharmaceuticals. He has been involved with product development for medical and home-care devices, including Food and Drug Administration regulatory approvals and clinical trials.

**Hui-Ming Chang, M.D.**, has been promoted to vice president for international programs and special advisor to the president at the health science center.

"When I started at the UT Health Science Center," Dr. Chang said, "I did a lot of work with international faculty and people from other countries on sabbatical. I also offered help to international students."

UT Health Science Center President James T. Willerson, M.D., recognized the value of Dr. Chang's efforts and established the Office of International Programs in 2001, to serve as a conduit for the university's international



**Bruce D. Butler, Ph.D.**, Vice President for Research and Technology

affiliations and appointed her as its director.

Dr. Chang is officially involved in many activities between the health science center and other schools, with visiting scientists' activities and international meetings. She also assists the U.S. State Department with facilitating the visits of its international dignitaries.

In 2005, Dr. Chang instituted the annual International Programs Award to recognize faculty or students from any of the health science center's schools. The program awards monetary prizes to those submitting proposals deemed by judges the most worthy projects, such as study in Africa dealing with HIV or a local research project. The program gave its first awards in September 2005.

At the UT Health Science Center since 1993, she has done biomedical research and has served as an educator in epidemiology, as well as pain and palliative care. She also has served on the board of directors of the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

Interim Medical School Dean Jerry Wolinsky, M.D., has announced the appointment of two interim chairs:

**Arthur Jansa, M.D.**, clinical assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, takes the reins from Thomas Clanton, M.D., who resigned effective Sept. 1 but remains on the faculty with research, teaching and clinical duties in the department.

"Dr. Clanton has been an integral part of



**Hui-Ming Chang, M.D.**, Vice President for International Programs

the Medical School community over these last nine years, and we appreciate his efforts in building the department," Wolinsky says. "We are fortunate his work as a mentor and role model to his faculty, fellows and residents will continue."

**David Robinson, M.D.**, associate professor of emergency medicine, will lead the department of Emergency Medicine, as former chair Brent King, M.D., fills the role of interim executive vice president and chief operating officer of the UT Health Science Center.

A search committee led by Dennis Vollmer, M.D., professor and chair of the department of Neurosurgery, will begin the process for a permanent department chair in the department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Bruce C. Kone, M.D., holder of the James T. and Nancy B. Willerson Chair, chairman, department of Medicine, and professor of Internal Medicine and of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, Medical School, has announced the appointment of two new division directors effective Jan. 1:

**Carmel Dyer, M.D.**, became director of the new Division of Geriatric Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine, Dr. Dyer received her undergraduate and medical degrees cum laude from Baylor College of Medicine. She then completed her medicine residency, chief residency and geriatrics fellowship at that institution.

Dr. Dyer has served as director of the Geriatrics Program, Harris County Hospital District since 1993, and co-director of the Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute in Houston since 1997. In 2003, she was named Physician of the Year by the Harris County Hospital District.

"Dr. Dyer is a creative and productive clinical investigator in the general area of geriatrics, but more specifically in the area of elder abuse and neglect, where she is held in high national peer esteem," Kone says. "She is principal investigator of a large National Institutes of Health grant on research into elder self-neglect, as well as grants from the U.S.

Department of Justice and other agencies. She has a very strong publication record of original articles and authoritative reviews and book chapters."

**Kevin W. Finkel, M.D.**, is the new director of the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension in the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Finkel received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his medical degree from the UT Medical School at Houston. He served his internal medicine residency and chief residency at Northwestern University-Feinberg School of Medicine. He then completed a nephrology fellowship at Barnes Hospital, Washington University School of Medicine, before being recruited to the UT Health Science Center in 1994. Dr. Finkel is currently associate professor of Internal Medicine, vice chair of Internal Medicine for Clinical Affairs, chief of Internal Medicine at LBJ General Hospital, and associate program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program.

"Dr. Finkel is an outstanding clinician, educator, investigator and leader. He has won numerous teaching honors, including multiple Dean's Excellence awards for teaching, a Faculty Merit Teaching Award from the Medical School, the Outstanding Teacher of Internal Medicine presented by the senior Medical School class, the Nephrology Faculty Teaching Award, and a Master Teacher Award," Kone says. ★

## Rose Mary Valencia Appointed to National Security Board

Rose Mary Valencia, director, Office of International Affairs, at the UT Health Science Center at Houston, has been appointed to the Secure Borders and Open Doors Advisory Committee (SBODAC), which provides advice and recommendations to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of State on efforts to maintain security while increasing the welcoming nature of those who visit our country.

Jared L. Cohen, president, Carnegie

Mellon University, is chair of the committee, and John Chen, chairman, CEO, and president, Sybase Inc., is co-chair. The SBODAC is a subcommittee of the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

Other members of the committee include: Richard Stephens, senior vice president, Human Resources and Administration, The Boeing Company; Eduardo J. Padron, president, Miami-Dade Community College; Keith Reinhard, Worldwide chairman and

president, DDB Worldwide Advertising; John Engler, president, National Association of Manufacturers; Roger Dow, president and CEO, Travel Industry Association of America; J. W. Marriott, chairman and CEO, Marriott International, Inc.; James May, president and CEO, Air Transport Association; Maria Luisa O'Connell, president, Border Trade Alliance; Gregory Principato, president, Airports Council International-North America; and James (Jay) Rasulo, chairman,

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

The committee's inaugural meeting took place in early December, in Washington, D.C. Committee members were joined by two expert panelists: Tom Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Susan Ginsburg, visiting fellow at the Migration Institute.

*Editor's note: Watch for a more detailed article about the Office of International Affairs and Rose Mary Valencia in an upcoming issue of The Leader.* ★

## Emery Provides Radiation Briefing to Houston FBI Counter Terrorism Group



**Robert J. Emery, Dr.P.H.**

By Pamela Lewis, *Institutional Advancement*

In response to the recent intentional radiation poisoning events in London, Robert Emery, Dr.P.H., assistant vice president for Safety, Health, Environment and Risk Management at the UT Health Science Center at Houston, provided a briefing in early December on radiation detection and biological effects to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Counter Terrorism Intelligence Group (CTIG), which is part of the Houston Joint Terrorism Task Force.

The CTIG is responsible for providing crucial, up-to-date intelligence affecting their communities to the law enforcement community at all levels of government.

The session was coordinated with the support of The University of Texas Police Department. Dr. Emery's presentation focused on "the ability to detect certain types of radioactive materials and recognize symptoms of radiation exposure," he said.

Dr. Emery also provided information on his recent research involving the analysis of data on reported cases of stolen sources of radioactive materials in Texas. The intent of the briefing was to enhance the FBI's understanding of the types of criminal acts that might involve radioactive materials, and the associated signs and symptoms. ★