



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



Quarterly Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2011

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

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Let Us Hear From You

GSBS Alumni Newsletter is published quarterly by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Office of Alumni Relations. Inquiries or comments may be directed to Joanna Bremer, editor, by:

- calling (409) 772-2684,
- writing to 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77555-1050,
- fax to (409) 772-5420, or
- email to jobremer@utmb.edu.

utmb Health

Students Receive \$135,000 in Awards

The highlight of Fall 2010, 66 graduate students and four postdoctoral fellows received awards and scholarships at the November luncheon sponsored by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Nearly 100 students and family, UTMB Health benefactors, faculty and staff attended the annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon at the Hotel Galvez on Nov. 5.

Dr. Dorian Coppenhaver, Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Dr. Leon Bromberg Professor for Excellence in Teaching, presented 96 awards worth about \$135,000. They are listed below.

In opening remarks, UTMB Health President David Callender, MD, said that some of the Graduate School's 1,500 alumni "have told us that these faculty-reviewed awards and scholarships gave them – our former students – a big advantage in the extremely competitive scientific community." That holds true for today's graduates, he added.

Katherine (Katie) Taylor, president of the Graduate Student Organization, presented several awards on behalf of the GSO. (See story on Page 4.)

Nine faculty members, selected by the students in their programs, received Graduate Program Teaching Awards. They are: Christine Arcari, PhD, Population Health Sciences; Judith Aronson, PhD, Pathology; Darren Boehning, PhD, Cell Biology; Laura Hermer, JD, LLM, Medical Humanities; Junji Iwahara, PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Carolyn Phillips, RN, PhD, Nursing;



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zinn (at left and right) congratulate Larry Bellot, Cell Biology, as the recipient of the Zelda Zinn Casper Endowed Scholarship.

UTMB Impact on Economy In Billions of Dollars Annually

In a January letter to University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB Health) supporters, faculty, staff and students, President David Callender explained that the university's focus on improving health needs to include economic health – for the community, the region and the state. Excerpts follow:

"Despite heavy damage to our Galveston campus by Hurricane Ike and challenges posed by the national recession, UTMB Health is rapidly re-emerging as a strong, vital institution that continues to create significant economic benefit for Galveston

Island, Galveston County, the greater Houston region and the entire state of Texas.

"Two respected economists — Ray Perryman of the Perryman Group and Dr. Robert Hodgkin of the University of Houston at Clear Lake — recently conducted an in-depth study of our economic impact for fiscal year 2009.

"The following statewide highlights (in round numbers) illustrate the far-reaching economic impact UTMB Health has by virtue of its mission and its influence on Texas health care:

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Discovery Study to Probe Immune-System Impairment

The six astronauts aboard the final flight of space shuttle Discovery, scheduled in late February, will be joined by 16 rodent passengers on a historic mission to understand why spaceflight makes humans more vulnerable to infection and, in the process, answer fundamental questions about the human immune system.

Riding in special self-contained modules that automatically supply them with food and water, the mice will be part of a long-term NASA effort aimed at understanding why spaceflight makes humans more vulnerable to infection by viruses and bacteria.

The agency has studied the phenomenon aboard its space shuttles for more than 25 years, collecting data from laboratory animals and astronauts themselves. The mouse experiment — a collaboration between teams at the University of Texas Medical Branch and NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif. — will be the last immunology investigation for the shuttle program.



Garofalo

“Since the Apollo missions, we have had evidence that astronauts have increased susceptibility to infections during flight and immediately post-flight,” said Dr. Roberto Garofalo, professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and principal investigator for the project. “They seem more vulnerable to cold and flu viruses and urinary tract infections; in addition, viruses like Epstein-Barr, which infect most people and then remain dormant, can reactivate

under the stress of spaceflight. We want to discover what triggers this increased susceptibility to infection, with the goal of protecting both the astronauts themselves and people with more vulnerable immune systems here on Earth, such as the elderly and young children.”

The mice aboard Discovery will be in orbit for 11 days, during which time shuttle astronauts will perform daily checks on their health and well-being. Within two hours of the shuttle's return to Earth, eight of the animals will be infected with respiratory syncytial virus — a pathogen that infects almost all human children by age two and ordinarily causes a relatively harmless cold-like upper respiratory disease. In some children, however, the infection spreads to the lungs, where the inflammation it generates causes coughing, wheezing and extreme difficulty breathing.

Another group of mice kept in nearly identical conditions on the ground will also be exposed to the virus. Garofalo's team will conduct genetic and protein studies of the lung and nasal tissues of both sets of mice, evaluating lung inflammation, viral replication and other key factors related to RSV infection in mice. Members of the team are Dr. Antonella Casola, MD, Co-Investigator; Teodora Ivanciuc, PhD, postdoctoral fellow; Yashoda Hosakote, PhD, Research Scientist; Deepthi Kolli, PhD, Instructor; and Zinzi Blell, RN and graduate student Microbiology & Immunology.

“We have substantial experience using mice to study immune response to RSV infection, and that will enable us to look at all the aspects of the immune responses of these mice as well as the pathological manifestations of the disease, looking at ways in which the space environment affects this respiratory infection,” Garofalo said.

Despite the shuttle program's end, Garofalo said, immune system experiments in space may well continue on the International Space Station.

“The space environment incorporates many factors that we know affect the immune system — microgravity, radiation, even different nutritional standards — all acting in a relatively short period of time,” Garofalo said. “The space station provides a unique environment for generating answers to fundamental questions about the human immune system. Those answers will benefit people here on Earth, and there's been a lot of interest in pursuing them.”

Understanding how spaceflight impairs the immune system and preventing some infection from threatening the health of space travelers will become increasingly important, as NASA plans human expeditions beyond the relative safety of Earth orbit — to Mars, for example, or the asteroids.

— UTMB Health Public Affairs Office

\$11 Million Contract for Protein Research

The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health awarded UTMB Health an \$11 million, five-year contract to apply proteomic analysis methods to the study of asthma, allergies, respiratory virus infections and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease associated with airway inflammation.

The new contract, announced in October, continues a NHLBI initiative that created the Proteomics Center at UTMB in 2002. Proteomics is the systematic study of the expression of proteins, the tiny molecular machines that do the work of cells—a rapidly developing discipline becoming increasingly important to biomedical research.

“Our earlier efforts were focused on developing technologies to look globally at the proteins involved in the airway inflammation relating to asthma and allergies,” said Dr. Alexander Kurosky, principal investigator, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and director of the proteomics center. “Now, working in concert with UTMB's Institute for Translational Science (ITS), we're going to increase our focus on clinical applications for these technologies.”



Kurosky

The new contract will help fund research already underway by Dr. Allan Brasier and Dr. William Calhoun on distinctive protein profiles associated with different subtypes of asthma. Other projects include studies of the role of oxidative stress — damage done by powerfully reactive oxygen compounds — in respiratory virus infections, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

“We're very well positioned to expand the clinical applications of proteomics in airway disease,” said Brasier, associate director of the proteomics center and director of the ITS. “We're also making a big push to marry the mathematical and physical sciences and biology to create quantitative ways of measuring biological phenomena, which can help us develop some very powerful new clinical technologies.”

New technologies that allow faster and more efficient measurement of protein levels will provide the researchers with unprecedented amounts of data. Two of the project's teams will focus on further developing new methods to extract proteomic information from samples, while a core group of bioinformaticists — specialists in applying mathematical and computational techniques to biological problems — will provide the computing power needed to interpret the data and produce new insights in clinical and basic science.

“Computational expertise is extremely important to this center, and we've built up a very strong bioinformatics program at UTMB,” Kurosky said. “It's a really talented group, and they're crucial to fulfilling the great potential of this effort.”

Overall, the project will involve 13 basic scientists and clinicians from a wide variety of disciplines. They are Dr. Istvan Boldogh, Dr. Antonella Casola, Dr. William Calhoun, Dr. Roberto Garofalo, Dr. Bruce Luxon, Dr. Massoud Motamedi, Dr. Konrad Pazdrak, Dr. Sanjiv Sur, Dr. John Wiktorowicz and Dr. Yingxin Zhao from UTMB; and Dr. David Gorenstein and Dr. Kevin Rosenblatt from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

— UTMB Health Public Affairs Office

Alumni News

Call for Nominations: GSBS Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Graduate School annually presents the Distinguished Alumnus Award during Commencement ceremonies to a graduate who has achieved special recognition in his or her professional career. This year, the award will be presented 4 p.m. Friday, May 6, at William C. Levin Hall.

The nominee should have received a masters or doctoral degree from the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UTMB. His or her contributions might include research, teaching, science or academic administration, consulting, editing, leading scientific societies, participating in symposia, and the like.

To nominate a graduate, send a letter of recommendation and a current CV of the person you're nominating no later than March 1 to the attention of the Dean, UTMB Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77555-1050, or by email to atropea@utmb.edu.

Previous Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients are:

Name	Class year	Award year
Joseph G. Wood, PhD	1962	1976
Melvin Hess, PhD*	1952	1977
Leroy Olson, PhD*	1957	1978
Gilbert A. Castro, PhD	1966	1979
William B. Stavinoha, PhD	1959	1980
Samuel N. Kolmen, PhD	1957	1981
Erle K. Adrian, MD, PhD	1967	1982
Johan E. van Lier, PhD	1969	1983
Matthew M. LaVail, PhD	1969	1984
Daniel L. Traber, PhD	1965	1985
Martin A. Wasserman, PhD	1972	1986
Thomas M. Crisp, PhD	1966	1987
Jerry C. Daniels, MD, PhD	1973	1990
J. Arly Nelson, PhD	1970	1991
Jacob Paul Hieble, PhD	1977	1993
Mary Treinen Moslen, PhD	1983	1994
Susan Lynn Naylor, PhD	1977	1995
T.C. Hsu, PhD*	1953	1996
Richard W. Drummond, PhD	1980	1997
Burhan Ghanayem, PhD	1983	1998
Kenneth C. Carter, PhD	1989	1999
Fernando M. Trevino, PhD	1979	2000
Mary E. Guinan, MD, PhD	1969	2001
Evelyn Tiffany Castiglioni, PhD	1979	2002
Ben G. Raimer, MA, MD	1970	2003
Robert G. Urban, PhD	1991	2004
Harvey Bunce III, PhD	1978	2005
Cynthia Robbins-Roth, PhD	1980	2006
James H. Jorgensen, PhD	1973	2007
John M. Nickerson, PhD	1980	2008
Faith McLellan, PhD	1998	2009
Gailen Marshall, MD, PhD	1979	2010

*Deceased

Save the Date Homecoming Is Coming

Friday, April 1, 2011

Morning activities for all will take place at Moody Gardens Hotel, Spa & Convention Center, Seven Hope Boulevard Galveston. Directions: http://www.moodygardenshotel.com/locations_directions/

Those include welcomes by the alumni associations and university officials, the UTMB Cyber Café, Info Mart and Old Red "Fauxtos," and Continuing Education: "Patient Privacy in the Era of Social Media," by GSBS Alumnae E. Bernadette McKinney, JD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Institute for the Medical Humanities, and Cheryl Ellis Vaiani, PhD, Assistant Professor & Clinical Ethicist, Institute for the Medical Humanities. This will be repeated Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

GSBS Events

Activities specific to the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences will be at William C. Levin Hall, Market at 11th, Galveston:

2:30–3:30 p.m. – UTMB Campus Tour

4–5 p.m. – Annual GSBS Dean's Lecture, featuring Dr. Lawrence Sowers, Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacology

5–6 p.m. – Dean's Reception and group photo of GSBS Alumni

Saturday, April 2, 2011

Morning activities for all are scheduled at Levin Hall.
7:30–9 a.m. Breakfast with President David L. Callender
9–10 a.m. "UTMB Health – The Road Ahead," by David Callender, MD, MBA, FACS, and Ben Raimer, MD, Senior Vice President, Health Policy & Legislative Affairs

10 a.m.–Noon UTMB College

(running concurrently, select two):

- "Building the Future of Healthcare—A Blueprint for Success," by Garland D. Anderson, MD, EVP and Provost, Dean, School of Medicine; Mike Shriner, AIA, VP, Business, Operations and Facilities; and Donna Sollenberger, MA, EVP/CEO, UTMB Health System
- "The Bitter-sweet of Sitting Still—Advancing Research & Patient Care in Diabetes," by Randy Urban, MD, Chairman, Department of Internal Medicine and Director, UTMB Stark Diabetes Center
- "Going Viral—Getting Down to Business in the GNL," by James LeDuc, PhD, Professor, Microbiology & Immunology, Deputy Director, GNL

10 a.m.–2 p.m. The UTMB Bookstore, Moody Medical Library, ground floor, will be open; and the Rare Book Collection will be available for viewing, MML, 4th floor.

Invitation, with detailed agenda and costs will be mailed in February. Register online at www.utmb.edu/homecoming.



Students Receive \$135,000 in Awards

Several receive special awards at luncheon

A number of special awards were presented at the Graduate School Awards and Scholarships Luncheon in November.

Dr. Cary W. Cooper presented the Dean's Award for Service to Christof Straub, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, for demonstrating outstanding leadership and performing significant service to his graduate program, the graduate school and UTMB campus community. A generous gift from the University Federal Credit Union makes this award possible.

Thuy Quynh Do, Population Health Sciences, received the Graduate Student Organization award from GSO President Katie Taylor for making the most significant contributions to the organization and to the student body in the past year. The recipient must have demonstrated this contribution by volunteering for GSO community projects, student publications or any other activity that the GSO Awards Committee feels made a valuable contribution to graduate student interests. Another generous gift from University Federal Credit Union makes this award possible, as well.

The GSO Faculty Award for Student Advocacy goes to a graduate school faculty member who repeatedly demonstrates concern for student rights and issues, and who acts on behalf of the student body. Ms. Taylor presented the 2010 award to Dr. Dorian H. Coppenhaver, GSBS Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

The UTMB Faculty Women's Club established a scholarship fund in 2006 to reward and recognize outstanding women in each of the four schools at UTMB. Michelle Nelson, Microbiology and Immunology, received this prestigious scholarship, which rotates to one of the schools annually. In addition to the award, she was invited to a meeting of the Faculty Women's Club.

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Edward Sherwood, MD, PhD, MD/PhD Program; Lynn Soong, MD, PhD, Microbiology and Immunology; and Guilio Tagliatalata, PhD, Neuroscience.

Four postdoctoral fellows received the James McLaughlin Postdoctoral Fellowship awards for their work in infection and immunity: Drs. Birte Kalveram, Bruno Teixeira and Konstantin Tsetsarkin, Pathology, and Shin Murakami, Microbiology & Immunology. Four Pathology graduate students received McLaughlin Predoctoral Fellowships in Infection and Immunity: Veronia Calderon, Erika Caro Gomez, Ashley Grant and Frances Valencia.

Graduate student awards and scholarships went to:

Marie and Talbert Aulds Scholarship Award

Kimberly M. Kelly
Doctoral Nursing

James E. Beall II Memorial Scholarship

Marlene Starr
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

James E. Beall II Memorial Award in Anatomy and Neurosciences

Lindsay Reese
Neuroscience

William Bennett Bean Scholarship in the Medical Humanities

Jiin-Yu Chen
Medical Humanities

Robert Bennett Tuition Scholarship

Linda Benskin
Doctoral Nursing
Efrain Siller
Cell Biology

Biological Chemistry Student Organization (BCSO) Award

Michal Szymanski
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Mariann Blum, PhD Endowed Scholarship

Michal Szymanski
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Barbara Bowman Memorial Award for Research Excellence

Hung Doan
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Christof Straub
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Dennis Bowman Memorial Scholarship

Thuy Quynh Do
Population Health Sciences

Chester R. Burns Institute for the Medical Humanities Alumni Award

Andrew Childress
Medical Humanities

"Thank you for the chance to realize my dream and that of my late mother...who was my biggest supporter..."

-Larry Bellot

Zelda Zinn Casper Endowed Scholarship

Larry Bellot
Cell Biology

Kay and Cary W. Cooper, PhD Scholarship

Jason Thonhoff
Neuroscience

Emily E. Dupree Endowed Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Science

Kirk English
Population Health Sciences

Dr. David C. Eiland, Jr. Scholarship Award in Health Care and Humanities

Alina Bennett
Medical Humanities

GSBS Associates Scholarship

John Anderson
Neuroscience
Margaret Wardlaw
Medical Humanities

GSBS Associates Travel Award Presented in Memory of Christina Fleischmann

Miguel Cabada
Clinical Science
Farooq Nasar
Experimental Pathology

Ann and John Hamilton Endowed Scholarship

Tiffany Mott
Microbiology and Immunology

Robert Harrison, MD, Memorial MD/PhD Endowment

Pat Gulhati
Cell Biology

James A. Hokanson, PhD Endowed Scholarship

Jazmin Ruiz
Population Health Sciences

Jen Chieh and Katherine Huang Scholarship

Cristian Lasagna
Cell Biology

Dr. Mary Faggard Kanz Travel Award for Environmental Toxicology

Tod Harper
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Curtis W. Lambert Scholarship

Lindsay Reese
Neuroscience

Medical Humanities Endowed Scholarship

Sheena M. Eagan
Medical Humanities

Irma Mendoza Scholarship

Michal Szymanski
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Continued on page 5

Students Receive \$135,000 in Awards

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**Regina R. and Alfonso J. Mercatante
Endowed Memorial Scholarship**

Malligamoorth Jambulingam

Doctoral Nursing

**Don W. Micks Scholarship in Preventive
Medicine and Community Health**

Kirk English

Population Health Sciences

Bohdan R. Nechay Scholarship

Brian Friedrich

Experimental Pathology

**Elaine L. Nicholson, RN Fund for Graduate
Nursing Education**

Paula A. Stangeland

Doctoral Nursing

**Lois E. Nickerson, RN Endowed
Scholarship**

Nitha Mathew

Doctoral Nursing

David and Janet Niesel Scholarship

Eric Carlsen

Microbiology and Immunology

Leroy Olson, PhD Endowed Scholarship

Nobue Urshihara Urvil

Medical Humanities

**Charles F. Otis Endowed Award for Clinical
Research**

David Gundermann

Population Health Sciences

Shirley Patricia Parker Scholarship

Hung Doan

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Jason E. Perlman Research Award

Margaret Wardlaw

Medical Humanities

**Edward S. Reynolds Jr., MD Experimental
Pathology Graduate Scholarship**

Linda Sousse

Experimental

Pathology

**George Palmer Saunders II Memorial
Scholarship**

Vashti Bryant

Pharmacology and Toxicology

Margaret Saunders Travel Award

Pat Gulhati

Cell Biology

**Peyton and Lydia Schapper Endowed
Scholarship**

School of Allied Health Sciences

Shanon Casperson

Cell Biology

Rafael Samper-Ternent

Clinical Science



Seven students in the Population Health Sciences program received awards: first row (from left): Rafael Samper-Ternent, David Gundermann, ThuyQuynh Do, Dr. Christine Arcari, assistant professor, Jazmin Ruiz and Miguel Cabada; second row: Christopher Fry and Kirk English.

Michael Tacheeni Scott Endowed Scholarship

Emily Stieren

Neuroscience

George Sealy Research Award in Neurology

Trung P. Nguyen

Neuroscience

**Sealy Center on Aging Graduate Student
Award**

Marlene Starr

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Sealy Center for Vaccine Development
Graduate Student Award**

Alexey Seregini

Experimental Pathology

Robert Shope PhD Endowed Scholarship

Miguel Cabada

Clinical Science

Sarah A. Ziegler

Experimental Pathology

**Katherina Siebert Award for Excellence in
Oncologic Research**

Anne Tann

Cell Biology

Stephen C. Silverthorne Memorial Award

Andrea Garces

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Arthur V. Simmang Scholarship Fund

Roosevelt Campbell

Cell Biology

Christopher Edwards

Doctoral Nursing

Christopher Fry

Population Health

Sciences

Carla Kantara

Cell Biology

Linda Sousse

Experimental Pathology

Emily Stieren

Neuroscience

Shelly Wilson

Cell Biology

John Stanton Scholarship

Michelle Nelson

Microbiology and Immunology

University Federal Credit Union Scholarship

Katherine Taylor

Experimental Pathology

UTMB Retirees Scholarship Award

Yan-Jang Huang

Experimental Pathology

Rose and Harry Walk Research Award

Christopher Fry

Population Health Sciences

**Robert A. Welch Award for Excellence
in Graduate Research in Chemistry**

Rodrigo Diaz Espinoza

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

**Jane Welsh Award for Excellence in
Cardiovascular Research**

Abhijnan Chattopadhyay

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Betty Williams Scholarship

Ashley Grant

Experimental Pathology

Catherine Rondelli

Cell Biology

**Jean C. and William D. Willis Research
Endowment**

John Anderson

Neuroscience

**WHO Collaborating Center for Tropical
Diseases Graduate Student Award**

Joan Kenney

Experimental Pathology

Zhou Sisters Great Expectations Scholarship

Zeming Chen

Microbiology and Immunology

Bijay Khajanchi

Microbiology and Immunology

**Edith and Robert Zinn Presidential
Scholarship**

Julia Bohannon

Microbiology and Immunology



Postdoctoral News

Postdocs who helped set up the plaza at Moody Medical Library for the Postdoktoberfest were (from left) Drs. Manu Anantpadma, Chad Mire, Doug Botkin, president of the Organization of Postdoctoral Scientists, and Shane Massey, OPS social director.



Postdoktoberfest Promotes Fun, Cameraderie

At the first of what is expected to be the annual Postdoktoberfest, sponsored by the Organization of Postdoctoral Scientists and the Graduate Student Organization in mid-October, more than 200 postdocs and graduate students devoured 250 brats, hot dogs and veggie dogs, coleslaw, German chocolate cake, soft drinks and, of course, beer.

Dr. Douglas Botkin, president of the OPS, said he was delighted by the turnout of postdocs and students, who had a chance to get acquainted outside the research setting. Katie Taylor, president of the GSO, observed that the timing of Postdoktoberfest, after exams, allowed graduate students to enjoy themselves and not worry about missing study time.

While the OPS and the GSO planned, publicized and provided volunteers to set up and clean up, GSBS Deans Dr. Cary Cooper, Dr. David Niesel, Dr. Norbert Herzog and Dr. Dorian Copenhaver shopped for the provisions and cooked the brats, hot dogs and veggie dogs. The cooks, Drs. Herzog and Niesel, “could hardly keep up with demand and have already modified plans for next year to deal with the crowds,” said Dr. Herzog.



The west side of the plaza was full.

Door prizes donated by the UTMB Bookstore, the MD/PhD Program and the Graduate School were handed out during the evening. Children played the games set up on the lawn next to Moody Medical Library plaza, where the festivities were held.

Drs. Shane Massey, OPS social director, and Chad Mire said they were surprised at the number of beer connoisseurs in the



Drs. David Niesel (left) and Norbert Herzog at the grill.

crowd. The two beer-tenders ran out of the dark, Oktoberfest brew, but had nearly a full keg of the light beer at the end of the night. When people returning for seconds on the dark beer learned none was left, Dr. Massey said they declined the light option.

Dr. Herzog said, “It’s nice to see that our students and postdocs are not only knowledgeable about science but also about beer.”

Class Notes and News Briefs

1970s

Martin A. Wasserman, PhD (1972, Pharmacology & Toxicology), wrote: "After 34 years, I voluntarily retired in 2005 from a full-time career in the pharmaceutical industry. After moving to southern California, I am presently a consultant to both the pharma and biotech industries. My last formal position was Senior Vice President of Research and



Wasserman

Chief Scientific Officer at AtheroGenics, Inc. (Georgia). I continue to enjoy living closer to my children and grandchildren in California." Before joining AtheroGenics, Dr. Wasserman was Vice President and Senior Distinguished Scientist in the Respiratory and Rheumatoid Arthritis Disease Group at Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals (1995-2001), preceded by positions at Pfizer (1972-1981), GlaxoSmithKline (1981-1988), Bristol-Myers Squibb (1989-1991), and Hoffmann-La Roche (1992-1995).

1990s

Pamela Scott Britton, MS (1995, Health Education & Promotion), is Program Coordinator of the Vocational Nursing Program at Galveston College, where she became tenured faculty in 2006. The program has a close collaboration with UTMB Health, where her students do clinical rotations in several departments. The program is more than 30 years old, and has been affiliated with UTMB for most of that time. Ms. Britton is married and living in Texas City. She and her husband have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

Robert M. Miceli, PhD (1992, Microbiology and Immunology), recently accepted a senior position in Charlottesville, Va., at the Defense Intelligence Agency as a Senior Intelligence Officer in the Counter Proliferation Support Division. Dr. Miceli was Chief Scientist, Special Programs Division, US Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, where he worked for 13 years. The new position, he wrote, "represents a challenging opportunity to leverage the many years of biological warfare defensive test and evaluation and training experience I gained with the intelligence community side of the equation."

Joanne T. Yarrish, MSN (1993, Master Of Science Nursing), is the owner of a birth center in Centennial Park, Arizona, where she has a private practice and is a nurse-midwife. Her two daughters are Claire, 7, and Marianne, 1½.

Boldogh Represents U.S. in Receiving International Award

Istvan Boldogh, DM&B, PhD, represented the United States as one of three international scholars to receive the Doctor Honoris Causa (DHC) in ceremonies at Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary, in November. The award originated at the University of Oxford, England, in the 15th century and is given for extraordinary achievements in natural and technological sciences, as well as political, law, philosophical studies.

The other participants who received the DHC were Hartmut P.H. Neumann, MD (Chair, Surgery, Freiburg Germany) and Constantin Copotioiu, MD (Dean, Radiotherapist, Marovasarhely, Romania). Jörg Weidenhammer, MD (President, Asklepios Hospital Clinics, Hamburg, Germany) received the Honorary Senator title.

Dr. Boldogh is a Professor in UTMB's Department of Microbiology and Immunology, the Sealy Center of Molecular Medicine and the NIEHS Environmental Health Center. He was one of 63 candidates from the United States and Europe, and selected by the Scientific Review Panel of the Faculty Senate at Semmelweis University.

Nomination requires research collaborations between the awardee's home institution and Semmelweis University. Dr. Boldogh has a fruitful research collaboration with Zsolt Radak, PhD, DSci, Vice Chair of the Department of Sport Medicine.

2000s

J. Ernest "Ernie" Aguilar, PhD (2008, Medical Humanities), and his husband, David Aguilar, DC, "are overjoyed to announce the birth of their daughter, Pilar Alegría, born September 26, 2010, at 6 pounds, 15 ounces, and 20 inches long. Pilar is Ernie's great-grandmother's name and a name that is common in the city where he lived in Spain. Alegría is 'Joy' in Spanish. David's Aunt Joyce (an important figure in his life), passed away last year and we wanted to honor her memory. We call her Pili (pronounced:

Dr. Istvan Boldogh received his Doctor Honoris Causa from Tivadar Tulassay, MD, PhD, DSc, Rector (President) of the Semmelweis University and Chair of the Research Laboratory for Pediatrics and Nephrology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest; and from Jozsef Tihanyi, MD, PhD, DSc, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport Medicine, Semmelweis University.



In addition, personal achievements are only a small part of this honor. Dr. Boldogh said, "This award recognizes the excellence of the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at UTMB Health, in terms of medicine, education and science." Judges also considered the excellence of the departments and centers in which he works: the Department of Microbiology and Immunology (which recently ranked second in research funding for microbiology and immunology departments in the United States), the Sealy Center of Molecular Medicine and the NIEHS Environmental Health and Science Center.

More than 350 years old, Semmelweis is one of the oldest European universities, and trained four Nobel laureates who later become U.S. citizens. They are Albert Szent-Györgyi (1937, Medicine, US), George de Hevesy (1943, Chemistry, US), Georg von Békésy (1961, Physiology, US), and John Harsanyi (1994, Economics, US).



'Pea-Lee'). They live in New York City, where Ernie is a consultant with Cikatelli Associates. Cikatelli is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of health care and social services delivered to communities in need across the United States and abroad. Ernie is responsible for developing and improving curricula and implementing training with health-care and social-service professionals. He focuses his attention in the areas of HIV services, clinical communication skills and health disparities.



Class Notes and News Briefs

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Bernadette McKinney, JD, PhD (2007, Medical Humanities), recently was appointed assistant professor in the Institute for the Medical Humanities, and received a Junior Faculty Grant from the UTMB Academy of Master Teachers for her project, entitled “Translational Research Ethics Education: Needs Assessment and Curriculum Development.”

Current Students

Andrew H. Childress, doctoral student, Medical Humanities, and his wife, Dara, announced the birth of their daughter, Sophia Caroline Childress, born at 11:11 a.m. January 17, 2011. Mother and daughter are doing well and the family has been “resting comfortably at home thanks to the heroic efforts of Sophia’s grandparents,” he wrote.

Postdoctoral Fellows

Nicole Bjorklund, PhD (Neuroscience and Cell Biology), recently received a postdoctoral fellowship in the Environmental Toxicology Training Program supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), under the mentorship of Dr. Giulio Tagliatalata. The one-year fellowship may be renewed for a second year, pending satisfactory progress. The training appointment includes regular participation in the NIEHS trainee journal club, attendance at Environmental Health (Toxicology), seminars and the Gulf Coast Society of Toxicology Conference, participation in the team-taught Texas A&M University at Galveston toxicology course, and a research program in an area of toxicology. Dr. Bjorklund also is secretary of the Organization of Postdoctoral Scientists.

GSBS Faculty

Jason Glenn, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medical Humanities, received the 2011 Martin Luther King Service Award in ceremonies Jan. 14 in Galveston. The award recognizes members of the UTMB community (faculty, staff or students) for “promoting brotherhood, equity and diversity without regard to race, sex, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability at UTMB and in the community, serving as an example of how to embrace differences, and functioning as a community leader through volunteerism.” He is recognized as one of the “unsung heroes within the UTMB commu-



Susan A. Ehrlich, retired appellate judge from Arizona, addresses a standing room only audience at the inaugural symposium on Topics in Biosecurity.

nity,” according to the nomination website. Dr. Glenn’s research focuses on the history of medicine, history of the mind sciences, addiction research and policy, treatment disparities, and incarceration.

Norbert K. Herzog, PhD, Professor in the Department of Pathology, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Associate Dean, GSBS, was elected in January as a member of the Texas Academy of Health Science Education. The appointment is “testament to the esteem in which your education accomplishments are regarded by your peers,” said the award letter from Jonathan MacClements, MD, FAAFP, president of the academy. The induction ceremony was scheduled February 3, 2011, in San Antonio. A goal of the academy is to improve education among all the University of Texas health components.



Herzog

Alice Hill, PhD, program director of the UTMB Nursing PhD Program, received the Visionary Leaders Award from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing during the school’s 60th anniversary celebration. Hill is one of 60 Alabama graduates to receive the award, which recognizes nursing graduates who have made significant national and international contributions to the field of nursing and health care by serving as deans and directors of nursing programs, presidents of colleges or universities, or are accomplished research scientists and faculty.

Program News

The Galveston National Laboratory, the Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (WRCE), and the National Biocontainment Training Center (NBTC), in November sponsored the first of what will become a symposium series dedicated to “Topics in Biosecurity.” An overflow crowd heard from policy experts on the probable outlook for future industry regulatory guidelines. The experts were Dr. Victoria Sutton, director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy at Texas Tech University School of Law, and Susan A. Ehrlich, retired appellate judge from Arizona who is a member of the National Science Advisory Board on Biosecurity. A link to a supporting editorial in the Galveston County Daily News is at: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=b6a6372e681f62a6>.

The Institute for the Medical Humanities was host to three faculty members from Durham University in England for four days in October. They were Martyn Evans, PhD, Professor of Humanities in Medicine, Co-director of the Centre for Medical Humanities, and Principal at Trevelyan College; Jane Macnaughton, MRCP, PhD, Professor of Medical Humanities, Co-director of the Centre for Medical Humanities, and Director of the Centre for Arts and Humanities in Health and Medicine; and Sarah Atkinson, PhD, Associate Director of the Centre for Medical Humanities, and Reader in the Department of Geography. The visitors participated in several IMH classes, met with faculty and explored prospects for collaboration between the institute and their centre.

Please send us your news: promotion, new position, new university, new business, awards, honors, retirement or just what you’ve been up to lately. Please include your program and class year. Address your Class Notes to Jo Bremer, GSBS Alumni Relations, 301 University Blvd., Galveston, TX 77555-1050; email: jobremer@utmb.edu; or phone: 409-772-2684.



UTMB Impact on Economy In Billions of Dollars Annually

Continued from page 1

- Annual impact of education and patient care activities:
 - \$4 billion in total spending
 - \$2 billion in output (the amount of goods and services produced)
 - 26,000 permanent jobs
- Annual impact of cumulative research initiatives associated with UTMB Health:
 - \$3 billion in total spending
 - \$1 billion in output
 - 16,000 permanent jobs
- Annual impact of medical services provided by physicians we've trained:
 - \$24 billion in total spending
 - \$13 billion in output
 - 169,000 permanent jobs
- Impact of completed, ongoing and anticipated construction:
 - \$3 billion in total spending
 - \$1 billion in output
 - 16,000 person-years in employment

“In addition, the study estimates annual tax revenues at \$96 million to the state and \$56 million to various local taxing authorities (including \$31.8 million to Galveston County entities). And, impact on the Galveston Island economy is substantial: \$193 million in business volume, 7,300 UTMB Health employees working on-island and 2,800 jobs attributable to the university's presence.”

Dr. Callender concluded by inviting readers to share the information. The link to the report is: http://www.utmb.edu/economic_impact/. “As we head into a challenging legislative session,” he concluded, “we consider the results of this study to be a clear indication that UTMB Health continues to provide tremendous return for taxpayers, philanthropies and society as a whole.”

Economic Benefits of UTMB Health

SOURCE: The Portman Group <small>*Based on typical annual rate of return to health-related research and standard practices to spread percentages from research output fully adjusted for attrition and risk to state, business and consumer research activity over a ten-year period.</small>		Total Expenditures	Gross Product	Personal Income	Employment <small>(All government jobs except where noted)</small>
Impact of Recently Completed, Ongoing, and Anticipated Construction	Texas	\$2.84 B	\$1.33 B	\$0.90 B	16,211
	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA	\$2.11 B	\$0.99 B	\$0.66 B	12,950
	Galveston County	\$0.12 B	\$0.06 B	\$0.04 B	705
Annual Impact of Health-Related Operations	Texas	\$2.17 B	\$1.10 B	\$0.75 B	14,206
	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA	\$1.45 B	\$0.74 B	\$0.52 B	9,717
	Galveston County	\$1.11 B	\$0.58 B	\$0.41 B	7,873
Annual Impact of Education-Related Operations	Texas	\$1.30 B	\$0.71 B	\$0.49 B	10,955
	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA	\$0.82 B	\$0.45 B	\$0.34 B	7,600
	Galveston County	\$0.71 B	\$0.36 B	\$0.20 B	6,300
Annual Impact of Student and Visitor Spending	Texas	\$0.10 B	\$0.05 B	\$0.03 B	1,037
	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA	\$0.14 B	\$0.07 B	\$0.04 B	947
	Galveston County	\$0.16 B	\$0.05 B	\$0.03 B	714
TOTAL Annual Impact of Health- and Education-Related Operations and Collateral Spending	Texas	\$3.71 B	\$1.89 B	\$1.29 B	25,150
	Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA	\$2.51 B	\$1.20 B	\$0.90 B	18,264
	Galveston County	\$1.62 B	\$1.01 B	\$0.72 B	15,077
Annual Impact of Medical Services Supported by Physicians Trained at UTMB	Texas	\$23.94 B	\$12.89 B	\$8.91 B	188,201
Annual Impact of Cumulative Research Initiatives Associated with UTMB*	Texas	\$2.82 B	\$1.45 B	\$0.99 B	16,190
GRAND TOTAL <small>(Statewide impact, excluding construction)</small>	Texas	\$30.27 B	\$15.14 B	\$11.09 B	211,509

In Memoriam

Sidney C. Cassin, PhD

Cellular Physiology & Molecular Biophysics

Class of 1957; among the first faculty members of the newly established medical school at the University of Florida, Gainesville, he taught renal physiology and conducted research on the transition of pulmonary circulation at birth.

June 8, 1928–October 17, 2009.

John H. Cross, PhD

Preventive Medicine & Community Health

Class of 1958; Professor Emeritus at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, after retiring in 2009. He was world known for his expertise and research in parasitology, specializing in tropical medicine focused on Southeast Asia.

Died November 19, 2010, in Montgomery Village, Md.

Pamela D. Knowles, RN, MSN

Master of Science, Nursing

Class of 1991; spent her life as a nurse, nursing supervisor, nurse practitioner and nursing educator across the United States, in Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and India.

December 6, 1936–October 14, 2010; died in South Padre Island, Tex.

Paul E. Phillips, MA

Microbiology & Immunology

Class of 1967; worked as a microbiologist at the Johnson Space Center in the early years of the Apollo program and later at the Texas Medical Center in neuropsychopharmacology. A self-taught musician, he built and learned to play the balalaika and other stringed instruments, and was a founder of the Houston Balalaika Society.

Died at age 72 on November 13, 2010, in Houston.