

UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER at Fort Worth

# Aging symposium features discussion on genetics of Alzheimer's disease

**R**ichard Mayeux, MD, MSc, discussed the genetics of Alzheimer's disease in his keynote address for the fourth annual Neurobiology of Aging Training Symposium March 13 at the health science center.

Dr. Mayeux, the Gertrude H. Sergievsky Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry and Epidemiology; the director of the Sergievsky Center; and the co-director of the Taub Institute of Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain at Columbia University, presented "The Complex Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease."

Dr. Mayeux is nationally known for his work in the study of genetics and environmental interactions in Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Mayeux has led a multidisciplinary, population-based epidemiological investigation of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in the Washington Heights-Inwood community in New York City for the past 18 years. He was among the first researchers to integrate epidemiology and genetics into identifying the biological markers that make people more susceptible to degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

In 1992, Dr. Mayeux received the Leadership and Excellence in



*Richard Mayeux, MD, MSc, discussed the complex genetics involved in Alzheimer's disease in his keynote address for the fourth annual Neurobiology of Aging Training Symposium March 13.*

Alzheimer's Disease award from the National Institute on Aging, and in 2004, he received a MERIT award for his work on the genetic epidemiology of familial Alzheimer's disease.

The symposium, held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 13, included oral and poster presentations from Neurobiology of Aging fellows and associate fellows.

"This symposium serves as an integral component of the Neurobiology of

Aging training program," said James Simpkins, PhD, principal investigator for the pre-doctoral training grant program. "This training grant is multidisciplinary in scope. We hope to stimulate interest in research on aging in students so that the problems associated with aging today can be alleviated."

The Neurobiology of Aging Training Symposium is funded by the National Institute of Aging. In

May 2002, the health science center was awarded a pre-doctoral training grant from the National Institute on Aging to provide financial and scholarly support for students pursuing research in the neurobiology of aging.

Students who become fellows receive a full stipend, funds for tuition and fees, and funding to attend national scientific meetings. Funds have also been made available to support associate fellows. ★

## Research Appreciation Day set for April 7

The health science center will host the 14th annual Research Appreciation Day Friday, April 7.

This year's keynote speaker will be Julian Paton, PhD, professorial research fellow in the Department of Physiology at the University of Bristol in Bristol, England. Dr. Paton will present his view of the origins of high blood pressure in his keynote address, "High Blood Pressure: Is It Caused by Vascular Inflammation in the Brainstem?"

Dr. Paton also serves as head of the Cardiorespiratory Control Research Group at the University of Bristol, where he uses a multidisciplinary approach in his study of the central nervous system and its control on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems. His research specifically targets hypertension, which is becoming increasingly prevalent worldwide.

Research Appreciation Day is an institutional tradition encompassing

medicine, public health and basic science. The program provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to share their research efforts with the campus community and the public.

Poster and oral presentation competitions for students are a featured event of the day's program, as well as a poster competition for postdoctoral fellows and residents. A panel of judges will select the top presentations in each category.

"The program encourages the development of joint research projects and increases the community's awareness of the outstanding quality and range of research conducted at UNT Health Science Center," said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research.

For more information about Research Appreciation Day, visit [www.hsc.unt.edu/rad](http://www.hsc.unt.edu/rad). ★

## CAMPUS Connection

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Please address all inquiries or suggestions to April Eubanks, editor.

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## Researchers begin work on glaucoma study

Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research, has been awarded almost \$2 million from the National Eye Institute to study the use of topical drug treatments for patients with glaucoma.

Xinyu Zhang, PhD, GSBS 2003, research scientist in pharmacology and neuroscience; Lee Alward, MD, from the University of Iowa; and Abe Clark, PhD, of Alcon Research Ltd., are serving as co-investigators on the project.

The five-year grant, "Glucocorticoids, Ocular Hypertension and Glaucoma," pairs lab research and patient care to discover why patients with glaucoma have increased intraocular pressure when treated with topical glucocorticoids. This increase in eye pressure can exacerbate glaucoma or create ocular damage if patients are treated for long periods of time with glucocorticoids.

"This would allow us to determine if what we suspect is true, that the

increased responsiveness to the drugs may be due to differences in the amount of receptors that individuals have for the glucocorticoids," Dr. Yorio said.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that leads to blindness by damaging the optic nerve. The optic nerve is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain, which is why damage to it leads to vision loss.

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness. There is no cure, although it can be treated and its progression slowed by early detection.

The researchers have hypothesized that glaucoma patients are missing an interference receptor known as glucocorticoid receptor beta. Because the receptor is missing in the nucleus, the response to administered glucocorticoids is enhanced in these patients. If the findings support the hypothesis, it could lead to a screening method to determine who would be likely to develop glaucoma.

"If this were the case, we would be able to intervene with treatment before appreciable vision loss is detected," Dr. Yorio said.

This project grew out of the research Dr. Zhang performed as a graduate student in Dr. Yorio's laboratory. Dr. Zhang's initial studies were recently published in the journal *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. A figure from one of her publications appeared on the cover of the February issue of the journal.

"Dr. Zhang's research has led to a most interesting observation that could result in making a profound discovery on the relationship between glucocorticoid receptors and glaucoma," Dr. Yorio said.

"This study is just part of an overall program in our laboratory to understand the fundamental cellular mechanisms that lead to the development of glaucoma and to identify potential new treatments," he said. ★

# Award honors innovative programs

The winners of the 2005 President's Award for Best Practices were honored at an awards ceremony and reception Feb. 21 in the Atrium.

BioMedical Information Services of the Gibson D. Lewis Library won this year's best practices award for "Introducing Customer-Driven Revenue Generating Practices Using Existing Resources," submitted by Martha Whitehouse.

The Performance Improvement Committee reviewed each submission and offered an assessment of strengths and opportunities for improvement on each of the programs entered.

The committee lauded the library's submission: "The submission clearly and concisely addressed the essential elements of the performance improvement model and can be used as an

example for others to follow. This is an outstanding example of putting a plan into action and achieving results."

BioMedical Information Services provides research services on medical topics, retrieval and reproduction of documents, and consultation to law firms, commercial laboratories and physicians that are setting up small medical libraries within their own offices. The services are provided to external clients for a fee.

The Department of Pediatrics' "First Reader Program," was selected as exemplary. Vicki Cannon, RN, program coordinator for the First Reader Program, submitted the entry.

The Performance Improvement Committee said: "Satisfaction of patients is a benefit to our campus and the perception of our services in the community. Additionally, the educa-

tional aspect of this program promotes the mission to treat the whole patient: mind, body, and spirit. This program has the potential to make a great difference in the lives of many individuals (on and off campus)."

DO, MPH, executive director of Nor-Tex and assistant professor of family medicine; the Department of Family Medicine's teleconferencing initiative, called the Committee for Quality Improvement Teleconferencing, submit-



*Daniel Perugini, DO, executive vice president, presented the President's Award for Best Practices to BioMedical Information Services for "Introducing Customer-Driven Revenue Generating Practices Using Existing Resources."*

The First Reader Program was created by the Pediatric Clinic to provide age-appropriate books in either English or Spanish to children ages 2 through 12, with the intent of encouraging parents and their children to read the books at the clinic and at home together.

The clinic worked with the office of Institutional Advancement to seek funds for the program and obtained \$5,000 to start it. During the first year, 1,000 books were distributed, and a second \$5,000 grant was secured to continue the program. The grants have been given by the Virginia and Robert Hobbs Charitable Trust at Wells Fargo Bank.

Three other teams submitted proposals for this year's Best Practices Awards: The North Texas Primary Care Practice-Based Research Network (Nor-Tex), submitted by Roberto Cardarelli,

ted by Stephen Urban, DO, chair of family practice; and a joint effort by the Financial Aid Office and the Office of the Registrar, submitted by Douglas Shrinier, director of student financial aid, and Betty Belton, registrar.

There are four criteria that a program or process must meet to be considered a best practice by the President's Award for Best Practices Selection Committee: it produces superior results; it is clearly a new or innovative use of human resources or technology; it is regarded as a best practice by the organization's customers or suppliers; and it leads to exceptional performance.

This year's committee members were Gloria Fuller; Janet Jowitt, RN; Christine Kalish, MBA; Doug Mains, DrPH; Pam McFadden; Thomas Moorman, MS, EdD; and Tim Strawderman, MPA, PhD. ★



# Discounted Executive Wellness Program available to employees

The health science center and its affiliate, Radiology Associates, are teaming up to offer full-time health science center and UNT Denton employees and their immediate family members a new wellness benefit.

A variety of CT (computed tomography) “well scan” and physical exam options from the Executive Wellness Program are now available at a significant savings.

Service packages combine a physical exam with a CT scan, or each service may be obtained separately.

The “gold” package, which costs \$825, comprises a physical exam and a full body (heart, lung and trunk) scan; the “silver” package, which comprises a physical with heart scan only, is \$625. At retail, these are normally offered for \$1,800 and \$1,340, respectively.

A physical, including all lab work but without any type of CT scan, costs \$425.

A heart-only scan without a physical, which includes calcium scoring for plaque buildup, is \$225, discounted from the normal \$440 retail price.

A full-body (heart, lung and trunk) scan without a physical is \$425, discounted from the normal \$795 retail price.

These are out-of-pocket services that are not covered by HealthSelect,

but a four-month payment plan is offered same as cash with an initial payment of 25 percent. After the initial 25 percent payment at the time of service, the balance will be billed in three equal payments for three months. Due to state regulations, these payments cannot be made by payroll deduction.

Employees will need to bring their identification badges to the appointment to qualify for the discounted pricing and be prepared to pay the minimum 25 percent of the service’s cost. Employees will need to accompany their immediate family members to their appointments so that the family member can qualify for the discounted rate.

Reports generated will be forwarded to John Willis, DO, assistant professor of internal medicine, for dissemination back to the employee or family member.

To schedule any of the services, call 817-735-0599. Scan-only appointments are available any afternoon, and combination scan and physical appointments are available Wednesday mornings starting at 8 a.m. and Thursday afternoons beginning at 1:30 p.m. The Executive Wellness Program is located in the Center for BioHealth. ★

## Drug brochures may be inaccurate

Researchers at the health science center have discovered that brochures produced by pharmaceutical companies to promote drugs to doctors do not always present accurate data.

Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MPH, assistant professor of family medicine, and John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, professor and director of clinical research for the Osteopathic Research Center, reported their findings in the open access journal *BMC Family Practice*.

Drs. Cardarelli and Licciardone discuss the results of their study of 20 brochures from 20 different drug companies in their article, “A cross-sectional evidence-based review of pharmaceutical promotional marketing brochures and their underlying studies: Is what they tell us important and true?”

“We found that the quality of most studies was excellent,” Dr. Cardarelli said. However, the researchers found that three out of the 20 promotional brochures studied contained data on the effects of the drug that was different from the original study.

Although the differences were small, the authors of the study recommend that doctors review original studies instead of changing their drug prescribing behavior based on promotional brochures.

“Further research is needed in this area,” Dr. Cardarelli said. “The next step is to better understand and determine if pharmaceutical promotional products change a physician’s prescribing habits. More importantly, if it does, we must ensure that the information is accurate.”

The article can be found in *BMC Family Practice*’s latest edition at <http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmcfampract/>. ★

## Kudos to...

**Fernando Treviño, PhD, MPH, dean of the School of Public Health, on being appointed to the Texas Health and Human Services Council by Gov. Rick Perry. Dr. Treviño’s term will expire in 2009.**

**Craig Elam, MLS, assistant professor of education, on being promoted from associate director to senior director of technical services for the Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library.**

**Ronald Blanck, DO, president of the health science center, on being elected to a three-year term on the Board of Managers of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States. ★**

# Clearfield chosen as dean of Touro medical school

Michael Clearfield, DO, professor of internal medicine and associate dean for clinical research, will be leaving the health science center to become dean of Touro University's College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, Calif. He will begin his new position Aug. 1.

"It's really a very mixed emotional feeling for me, taking this appointment and leaving the health science center," Dr. Clearfield said. "My entire professional career has been here. This is the only place I've really known. There are a lot of people I've grown up with here, but I'm sure the foundation that we've built is solid enough for a seamless transition."

Dr. Clearfield joined the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1979, when the department of medicine had only three faculty members. He took over as acting chair of internal medicine in 1982 and served as chair until 2002. He has been instrumental in building the department from its three faculty members when he arrived to its current 47.

Dr. Clearfield became the associate dean for clinical research in 2002 and has helped establish the Osteopathic Research Center and increase extramural research funding for TCOM by almost 500 percent. In 2002, he also became the first funded chair in the history of TCOM with the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation endowment of the clinical chair in research.

"I know that the entire campus and community will sorely miss Dr. Clearfield," said Marc Hahn, DO, TCOM dean, "but the profession will benefit from his new role."

The recipient of such awards as the Gutensohn-Denslow Award in 2005, the Darryl A. Beehler, DO, Award for Research Mentor of the Year in 2004, the American Osteo-



Michael Clearfield, DO

pathic Foundation's Astra-Zeneca Healthy Heart Award in 2003, the President's Citation in 1999 from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and Internist of the Year in 1997 from the American College of Osteopathic Internists, Dr. Clearfield has lectured extensively on subjects such as cardiovascular disease and pharmacology, the management of diabetes, the treatment and evolution of hypertension, and the etiology and pathophysiology of atherosclerosis.

"I'm very proud of this institution, and it will always be an honor to say that I've been affiliated with it," Dr. Clearfield said. "This will be a new and different challenge for me. The opportunity that is there is great, and they are willing to give me freedom to do some new and innovative things. Still, it's a mixed excitement."

The Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is planning a farewell event this summer for Dr. Clearfield, his wife, Susan, and their children. ★

## In the News

The January issue of *The DO* included information about **Kendi Pim, DO**, assistant professor of manipulative medicine, receiving the Wyeth Emerging Leader award and **Bernard Rubin, DO, MPH**, professor and chair of rheumatology, receiving the Procter & Gamble Women's Health and Wellness Award.

The Jan. 2 *Dallas Morning News*, the Jan. 3 *Star-Telegram* and the Jan. 6-12 *Dallas Business Journal* included information about **Michael Clark, PhD, PA-C**, assistant professor in medical education and PA studies, being named president of the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants.

**Terry Gratton, DrPH**, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, was cited as a source for a sidebar that appeared in the Jan. 4 *Star-Telegram's* coverage of the wildfires in Texas.

**William Garner**, doctoral student in health management and policy, was featured in the "Education Notes" section of the Jan. 9 *Dallas Morning News* and in the Jan. 13 *Dallas Business Journal*. Garner was selected for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Louis Stokes Urban Health Policy Fellows Program for 2005-2006.

The *Fort Worth Business Press's* Jan. 16-22 medical records column led with a story about the health science center's dip in research funding due to NIH reductions. The article also discussed increases in funding for certain areas of the health science center, including the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. **Glenn Dillon, PhD**, associate vice president for research; **Marc Hahn, DO**, TCOM dean; and **Thomas Yorio, PhD**, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences dean and vice president for research, were quoted in the article.

The Jan. 20-26 *Dallas Business Journal* reported that **Laszlo Prokai, PhD**, joined the health science center as the new Robert A. Welch Professor and is beginning a proteomics lab at the institution. ★

# PA embodies excellence in patient care

Some lessons you learn in childhood just make sense. For Linda Davis, MHS, PA-C, physician assistant in rheumatology, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” has been her guiding principle. And her commitment has not gone unnoticed; the *Fort Worth Business Press* selected Davis as a 2006 Health Care Hero for her dedication to her patients.

“As a Christian, I believe my spiritual gift is caretaking. I try to do what I can do to give patients the help they need, whether it’s medicine, physical therapy or simply prayer,” Davis said. “Sometimes people just need you to listen.”

Davis’ journey as a physician assistant began in 1995, when she joined her children in heading into the world of higher education. As her children entered college, Davis took on the challenge of a physician assistant program at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn.

“I’d been in the healthcare field since 1973 as a radiologic technologist, but it is a very technical field, working mostly with equipment,” Davis said. “I really wanted the opportunity to build lasting relationships with patients and have a real impact on their lives, so I chose to be a physician assistant.”

After completing her master’s in health sciences in 1998, Davis entered the National Health Service Corps, which provides health care to medically underserved areas of the country. “This program brings medical and health professionals into rural, underserved or low-income areas to provide much-needed care,” she said. “I worked in a local health department in North Carolina for two years through the corps.”

These days, Davis spends the majority of her time caring for patients in the rheumatology department on the fourth floor of the Patient Care Center. “I get a chance to really know patients and their families,” she said. “I



*Linda Davis, MHS, PA-C, said she believes that taking care of people is her gift. Davis’ commitment to caring for others led her peers to nominate her for the Fort Worth Business Press’ Healthcare Hero awards for 2006.*

think this really helps me round out their care.”

In addition to treating patients and helping train PA students, Davis also participates in clinical trials of new treatments for rheumatoid arthritis. Through clinical trials, Davis believes she is able to help people better manage their arthritis, and continue to learn about new treatments for this painful disease.

Davis’ willingness to go above and beyond has not gone unnoticed by her colleagues. Fellow physician assistant Natasha Cha, also of rheumatology, said, “Linda Davis is the embodiment of a physician assistant par excellence. When Linda tends to a patient, it is as if she is providing care for her beloved parent, grandparent or precious child.”

Davis’ caring doesn’t stop at the health science center door. She is actively involved in the community as

a member of the Tarrant County Medical Reserve Corps, a group of medical and public health professionals who assist in the event of a disaster or emergency, such as the influx of victims Texas saw after Hurricane Katrina.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Davis served in several area shelters caring for patients and serving as shelter manager as a member of the Tarrant County chapter of the American Red Cross.

Known in her church and around the health science center as someone you can turn to for a helping hand, Davis isn’t above putting on a funny hat or false teeth to elicit a smile. “Holding someone’s hand — these little things can help someone feel so much better,” Davis said. “I’m not this way to win awards, it’s just what I’ve always done. It’s part of my character to help people.” ★



# SPH student learns about natural medicines in the rainforest of Peru

While the modern marvels of pharmaceuticals have provided physicians with a way to treat and manage diseases, the rainforests of the world still hold secrets to treating and curing disease.

Mehreen Hooda, master's student in the School of Public Health, learned about some of those secrets during a journey into the Amazon Rainforest of Peru. Hooda spent a week in Peru with the Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research Foundation and discovered the rainforest and the ancient healing arts of indigenous populations in one of the organization's course offerings, Botanical Medicine.

"The purpose of the trip was to gain an understanding of the botanical aspects of plants in the rainforest," Hooda said. "The main focus of the course is the rainforest, herbal medicine and how it really works."

To that end, Hooda and her classmates traveled through the rainforest in a guided tour. The tour included ACEER Foundation staff members and local shamans.

"In the area, there is no synthetic medicine," Hooda said. "The shaman makes formulas through compounding, mostly plants, and doctors do some of the same things. This works for the people in Peru, and this use of plants for medicinal purposes impacts our medicines even today."



*Mehreen Hooda, public health master's student, spent a week in Peru to study the herbal medicines of the rainforest and the ancient healing arts of the indigenous population.*

Later, the group went to Machu Picchu, where they met another shaman who taught them the more ancient uses of the forest's plants and herbs, including the coca leaf, which is used by local residents to combat altitude sickness.

"There, just about every ceremony is based on the coca leaves," Hooda said. "The people always use them in their medicine."

Throughout the trip, the students underwent ceremonies of welcome and renewal performed by each of the shamans. The ceremonies, performed in the ancient tradition, used plants and flowers found in the rainforest.

"You couldn't imagine what all is in the rainforest," Hooda said. "You get to just observe life and how peaceful it is."

Hooda was able to take the 10-day

course by using her financial aid money. She has shared what she learned in poster presentations and oral presentations to the Public Health Student Association and the School of Public Health. Hooda plans to graduate this May and hopes to put what she learned to use when she becomes a doctor.

"I think what I gained is just the understanding of how a different culture works," Hooda said. "It broadens your horizon. Not everyone is the same, and you'll encounter all sorts of people in life. You need to take the whole person into account before just making conclusions."

Born in Karachi, Pakistan, Hooda was raised in Fort Worth and earned a bachelor of science degree in forensic science from Baylor University. ★

# HSC honors employees at Service Awards Ceremony

This year, 136 health science center employees who have given five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service to the institution and the UNT System were recognized Feb. 16 at the Service Awards Ceremony and reception. Sixteen employees have given 20 or more years of service:

## 35 Years of Service

**Robert Gracy, PhD**, former associate vice president for research alliance development and professor of molecular biology and immunology

## 30 Years of Service

**Warren Anderson, EdD**, acting senior vice president for academic affairs, director of biomedical communications, chair and associate professor of education, and dean of the School of Health Professions

**Andras Lacko, PhD**, professor of molecular biology and immunology

**Michael Oglesby, PhD**, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience

## 25 Years of Service

**Ann Bolin**, administrative specialist in clinical education

**Peg Dansereau**, director of academic support for student affairs

**Evon Harris**, assistant foreman for custodial services



*Michael Oglesby (center), PhD, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience, was honored for 30 years of service. Ronald Blanck (right), DO, president, and Steve Russell (left), senior vice president for finance and administration, who was honored for 25 years of service, presented the award to Dr. Oglesby.*

**William McIntosh, DO**, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of neurology

**Frank Papa, DO, PhD**, assistant dean for curricular design and educational technologies, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Pam Patman**, assistant to the chair of surgery

**Steve Russell**, senior vice president for finance and administration

**Ruthie Washington**, senior administrative assistant in human resources

## 20 Years of Service

**Glen Evatt**, biohazard waste technician in custodial services

**Keith Raybuck**, communications officer for campus police

**Lourdes Rodriguez**, DNA site coordinator for the DNA laboratory

**Sylvia Sprunger**, library technician



## International Leaders visit HSC

*Ronald Blanck, DO, president, and the health science center hosted a segment of the U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program March 14. The group, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, toured the area to speak with local leaders about U.S. foreign policy and counterterrorism. Dr. Blanck discussed the medical implications of bioterrorism with representatives from Chile, Finland, Hungary, Macedonia and Taiwan.*



## School of Public Health

# PHSA helps build hope, dreams, homes

Health science center members of the Public Health Student Association helped build homes for families in Eules Jan. 21 through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Nine SPH students volunteered their time early on a Saturday morning to help 20 other Habitat for Humanity volunteers construct a new home.

The students included Leticia Davila, master's student in community health; Ashley Garrett, master's student in community health; Bill Germann, master's student in biostatistics; Tiffany Hebert, master's student in community health; Merly Mathew, master's student in community health; Marcus Mitias, master's student in health management and policy; Pamela Motloch, master's student in environmental health; Amol Rajmane, master's student in clinical research/biostatistics; and Vamsi Raju, master's student in environmental and occupational health.



*SPH students (from left to right) Leticia Davila, Merly Mathew and Ashley Garrett helped Habitat for Humanity build homes for families in Eules Jan. 21.*

Whether volunteers were experienced in construction work or were learning how to use a hammer for the first time, there was a wide variety of work for everyone.

Even though it was chilly outside, the volunteers said they enjoyed working on their assigned tasks. Hebert said she would like to partici-

pate in future projects. "I had a great time out there," she said.

PHSA scheduled another volunteer activity for March 20 at JP Elder Middle School. PHSA volunteers spoke to the middle school students about public health topics ranging from nutrition to public health careers. ★

## School of Public Health Upcoming Events

### Research Appreciation Day

Friday, April 7, Center for BioHealth

### Texas Public Health Association Community Health: The Big Picture

April 23-25, Marriott Dallas/Plano Hotel at Legacy Town Center

### School of Public Health Awards Banquet

Friday, May 5, The Fort Worth Club

## Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

# Delegation from Thailand visits HSC



A delegation of top administrators from Naresuan University in Thailand visited the health science center Feb. 16-17 to see how the two institutions can work together and to sign a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the exchange of staff, students and research.

The delegation included the president of Naresuan University and several vice presidents and deans of the graduate school, medical school, school of nursing, school of engineering and school of science. In addition to touring the campus, the group toured the Fort Worth Stockyards and several museums.

“This visit was an important step in the growth of our institution,” said Thomas Yorio, PhD, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research. “It will bring new students and new collaboration opportunities, enhancing our global presence.” ★

## Spring 2006 GSBS Events

### Experimental Biology Alumni and Friends Reception

*All experimental biology attendees affiliated with the health science center are welcome. Co-sponsored by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Office of Institutional Advancement.*

Brandy Ho's Hunan Cuisine, 217 Columbus Ave., San Francisco, Calif.  
Sunday, April 2, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

### Research Appreciation Day 2006

Center for BioHealth  
Friday, April 7

### RAD After-Party

*Everyone is welcome. Food and fun provided, cash bar. Co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Association and the Graduate School Alumni Association.*

Dos Gringo's Mexican Restaurant, 1015 University Drive, Fort Worth  
Friday, April 7, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

### Graduate Student Association Annual Awards Banquet

*GSBS students attend free with reservation; the ticket price for non-students is \$20 each. Tickets will be available for purchase in EAD 816 starting April 17.*

Cultural District Banquet Center, 275 University Drive, Fort Worth  
Friday, May 12, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

### GSBS Graduation Luncheon

*Attendance by invitation only.*

Joe T. Garcia's, 2201 North Commerce Street, Fort Worth  
Friday, May 19, noon – 2 p.m.

## Founders' Activity Center

# FAC helps employees make fitness a priority

Many people around campus know Diana Winton as the friendly face in the Office of Institutional Coordination, where she has been a senior executive assistant for nearly four years, but at the Founders' Activity Center, she is also known as a consistent and dedicated member.

Winton's previous job was located across the street from the Downtown Fort Worth YMCA, "so I got hooked on working out at lunch during that job, and it has carried over to my job at the health science center," she said.

Winton said she tries to exercise five to six days a week and includes cardiovascular exercise as well as weight training in her weekly routine.

Since Winton began her career at the health science center, she has utilized the FAC and the HealthSaver Program, which allows benefits-eligible employees to participate in approved physical activity programs for up to 90 minutes of work time per week.

"I've been working out for about five years," she said, "mainly on my



*Diana Winton participates in the HealthSaver program, which allows her to get her workouts in at lunch.*

lunch hour. I am very pleased with the HealthSaver program because it allows me the time to get in a quality work-

out and still have time to shower before returning to work. It also helps to break up the day and gives me more energy."

Winton also understands that a proper diet is key to good health, so she eats five or six small meals a day and includes mainly organic produce and lean protein sources. "I try to avoid fried foods and heavy cream sauces," she said.

"My favorite food is a mix of all types of vegetables steamed and topped with Mrs. Dash seasonings ... [but] my favorite junk food would be cheese quesadillas," she said.

For more information about the HealthSaver Program, see the Institutional

General Policies or contact Susie Quintana, health promotion manager, at ext. 2209. ★

# Governor challenges Texans to get moving

Governor Rick Perry and the Texas Department of Health have created the Texas Round-Up Activity Training Program to encourage Texans of all fitness levels to incorporate daily physical activity and healthy choices into their lives.

All state employees are challenged to increase their level of physical activity to at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week, and Ronald Blanck, DO, president, would like health science center employees to participate in the program.

Participation in the program allows access to online training programs and fitness schedules, as well as an online log to help track activity. Participants who complete the pro-

gram will receive a certificate of completion signed by the governor.

To complete the program, adults must complete 30 minutes of activity, five days a week (for a minimum of 150 minutes per week) for six weeks.

It's easy, it's fun, and best of all, it's free. Almost any activity earns credits: lifting weights, gardening, cleaning, watching children (not watching TV), playing pool and many more.

The program is also a competition. For each of the Governor's Challenges, the city, agency, organization, corporation, school district and family with the highest participation rates will be awarded the Governor's Cup and named "Fittest in Texas."

All faculty, staff and students are invited to join the health science center's team, For the Health of It!, which will be competing for the Governor's Cup for Educational Site Participation.

To enroll, go to [www.texas-roundup.org](http://www.texas-roundup.org) and click on "Join Texas Round-Up Activity Program Today!" Scroll down to "register today," select "For the Health of It!" from the list, and fill out the rest of the information.

Remember to record your activity at [www.texasroundup.org](http://www.texasroundup.org) so the health science center team gets credit for your participation.

For more information, contact Susie Quintana, health promotion manager, at ext. 2209. ★



# Faculty Advances

**Kathryn Cardarelli, PhD**, assistant professor of epidemiology, is author of the paper “Gender-specific disparities in obesity,” published in the February issue of the *Journal of Community Health*. Tyrone Borders, PhD, associate professor of health policy and management, Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, Little Rock, Ark., and James Rohrer, PhD, professor of health services research, Texas Tech University School of Medicine, Amarillo, Texas, are co-authors.

**Roberto Cardarelli, DO, MPH**, assistant professor of family medicine, is first author of the paper “A cross sectional evidence-based review of pharmaceutical promotional marketing brochures and their underlying studies: is what they tell us important and true?” published in the March 3 *BMC Family Practice* (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2296/7/13/abstract>). **John Licciardone, DO**, professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine and Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Clinical Research Chair for the Osteopathic Research Center, is co-author.

**Daisha Cipher, PhD**, assistant professor of manipulative medicine, director of biostatistics for the Osteopathic Research Center and associate director of research for psychiatry, is first author of the article “Are older patients satisfied with physician assistants and nurse practitioners?” published in the January issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*. Roderick Hooker, PhD, PA-C, director of research in rheumatology, Department of Veterans Affairs, Dallas, and Edward Sekscenski, MPH, of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, are co-authors.

**Alan Garrett, DPM**, staff podiatrist; **Travis Motley, DPM**, staff podiatrist; and **Brian Carpenter, DPM**, head of podiatric medicine, all of orthopaedic surgery, published “Evaluation of fibula free flap donor site morbidity” in the February issue of the *American Journal of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Medicine and Surgery*.

**Marty Knott**, TCOM 2007 and doctoral student in integrative physiology; **Jie Sun, MS**, research associate in integrative physiology; Yu Lei, PhD, assistant professor of computer science, the University of Texas at Arlington; **Myoung-Gwi Ryou**, doctoral student in integrative physiology; **Robert Mallet, PhD**, associate professor of integrative physiology, and **Albert Olivencia-Yurvati, DO**, professor of surgery, published the paper “Pyruvate mitigates oxidative stress during reperfusion cardioplegia-arrested myocardium” in the March issue of *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*.

**Yu-Sheng Lin, ScD**, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health, is first author of the paper “Variability of albumin adducts of 1,4-benzoquinone in volunteer subjects” published in the January/February issue of *Biomarkers*. Stephen Rappaport, PhD, professor, and Suramya Waidyanatha, PhD, senior research scientist,

both of the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C., are co-authors. Wendy McKelvey, PhD, epidemiologist, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Environmental Disease Prevention, New York City, is also a co-author.

**Sue Lurie, PhD**, assistant professor of social and behavioral sciences; **Antonio René, PhD**, former assistant professor of epidemiology; **Sejong Bae, PhD**, associate professor of biostatistics; **Karan Singh, PhD**, professor and chair of biostatistics; and **Adela Gonzalez, PhD, MPA**, assistant professor and interim chair of health management and policy and vice president for community affairs and institutional diversity, published “An Analytical Study of the Perceptions, Prevention Strategies, Treatment and Economic Impact of Equine West Nile Virus” in the fall issue of the *Texas Public Health Association Journal*. **Robert Galvan, DrPH**, former assistant professor of health management and policy, is first author.

**Porunelloor Mathew, PhD**, associate professor of molecular biology and immunology, is author of the paper “Cutting Edge: Lectin-like transcript-1 is a ligand for the inhibitory human NKR-P1A receptor,” published in the Cutting Edge section of the Dec. 15 issue of *The Journal of Immunology*. David Rosen, graduate student, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of California, San Francisco, Calif., is first author. Jayaram Bettadapura, PhD, postdoctoral research fellow; Mohammed Alsharifi, scientist; Hilary Warren, PhD, professor, all from the Division of Immunology and Genetics, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University, Canberra City, Australia, and Lewis Lanier, PhD, American Cancer Society Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of California, San Francisco, Calif., are co-authors.

**Laszlo Prokai, PhD**, Welch Professor of molecular biology and immunology; **Karol Gryczynski, PhD**, professor of molecular biology and immunology; **Ignacy Gryczynski, PhD**, professor of cell biology and genetics; **Glenn Dillon, PhD**, professor of pharmacology and neuroscience and associate vice president for research; and **Thomas Yorio, PhD**, dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and vice president for research, represented the health science center at the Texas Roadshow Feb. 28 - March 1 in Washington, D.C. The Texas Roadshow provides an opportunity for Texas to present emerging technology research to legislators and federal agencies.

**Stephen Weis, DO**, professor of internal medicine, and **Barbara King, RN**, research coordinator in internal medicine, published “Acquired Rifamycin Resistance with Twice-Weekly Treatment of HIV-related Tuberculosis” in the August issue of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. ★