

## UTHSC Dedicates Simulation Center in Honor of Delta Dental Plan of Tennessee – One Million Dollar Gift Announced

The University of Tennessee College of Dentistry dedicated its dental simulation center on Friday, Feb. 27 in recognition of a one million dollar gift from Delta Dental Plan of Tennessee.



*Phil Wenk, DDS*

Made possible by state funding in 2001, the center is the only one of its kind in the world and includes a renovated laboratory with 40 interactive, virtual-reality simulators in one room and eighty conventional simulators in the other. The Delta Dental Plan gift will go toward maintenance and upgrading of the laboratories, which will be named the Delta Dental Plan of Tennessee Dental Simulation Center.

UT College of Dentistry dean, Russell O. Gilpatrick, DDS commented, “We are very grateful to Delta Dental Plan of Tennessee for their generous support. In 1998, they established one of our largest scholarship endowments. This additional gift, which is the largest cash gift ever received by the College of Dentistry, will help us properly maintain and upgrade the simulation laboratories in years to come. This gift will also go a long way toward ensuring a technologically advanced education for the next generation of dental students.”

By using these revolutionary computerized dental training systems, students will receive case history information on simulated patients, and the units will track the procedures using on-screen visual systems. The units provide real-time feedback and evaluation, with all of the advantages of hands-on clinical experiences.

Dr. Gilpatrick commented, “One of the benefits these units provide is that they encourage self-training and enable users to advance at their own pace. Also, they have proven to be quite effective in helping to improve dental skills.”

“A mission of Delta Dental Plan of Tennessee is to support programs of demonstrated value that improve oral health

care for all persons,” commented Phil Wenk, DDS, chief executive of Delta



*Dental students gain valuable experience on the virtual-reality simulators.*

Dental Plan of Tennessee. “We are pleased to make this gift to the UT College of Dentistry. The work done by the school in research and teaching is critically important to the future of health care, both in Tennessee and nationally.” Dr. Wenk is a 1977 UT College of Dentistry graduate.

Delta Dental Plan of Tennessee (DDPT) is a member of the Chicago-based Delta Dental Plans Association, the oldest and largest dental benefits provider in the United States. DDPT’s professional membership constitutes 85 percent of all dentists presently licensed and practicing in Tennessee. Additionally, Delta Dental member plans serve nearly one-quarter of the estimated 170 million Americans with dental insurance, providing coverage to over 42 million people in nearly 75,000 groups across the nation.

### Options Program

College of Dentistry faculty members Janet Harrison, DDS, Van Himel, DDS and Mark Lackey, DMD recently hosted students with the Shelby County Options Program in the dental simulation center. The program takes high school sophomore girls into scientific situations in order to encourage an interest in pursuing careers in science and technology. About 60 students toured the facility. According to Dr. Harrison, working with Shelby County Options is beneficial both as a community service and for recruitment.

## Science Fair Judges Needed

The 2004 Shelby County Science and Engineering Fair, to be held March 22-25, is currently seeking judges. Faculty, postdoctoral students, fellows, and graduate or professional students are invited to participate. For more information, contact Art Geller at [ageller@utmem.edu](mailto:ageller@utmem.edu).

## The Record

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#### Mission Statement

The mission of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center is to improve human health through education, research and public service, with an emphasis on improving the health of Tennesseans.

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The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

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## Conflict of Interest Reminder

The Conflict of Interest Policy requires that all university employees, including exempt, non-exempt, and faculty, take reasonable precautions to ensure that their outside financial interests do not place them in conflict with carrying out their duties and responsibilities as employees of the university.

*Following are the current requirements:*

- If you disclosed certain categories of outside interests previously, you will soon receive an individual letter containing an Outside Interests Disclosure form that you must complete.
- If you have an interest (business, relationship, investment, etc.) that was not disclosed previously, you must complete an Outside Interests Disclosure form, which can be obtained by calling Melanie Burlison at 448-8030.

*Following is a list of the interests that employees must report:*

1. Report offices, directorships, employment and consulting relationships in outside organizations, which you hold or expect to hold. This includes sources of income for honorariums totaling \$10,000 or more from a single source.
2. Identify any intellectual property rights you hold and any outside ventures, including publicly held corporations, in which you hold more than a 5 percent financial interest. If you are involved in federal grant sponsored research, you must also disclose equity interests exceeding \$10,000.
3. Report any outside business or employment relationships you have

with employees or students of the UT Health Science Center. Also, describe any personal services performed for you by employees or student employees under your supervision.

4. Report any organization or venture listed in the above three items that competes or does business directly or indirectly with the university.
5. List any organization in the first three items above that parallels or is similar to your academic/professional expertise or that may be affected by your university responsibilities.
6. Report offices, directorships, employment and consulting relationships held by your nondependent children and parents in outside organizations that conduct business with the university or that would be affected by your activities for sponsoring organizations.
7. Identify any ventures (including publicly held corporations) in which your nondependent children and parents hold more than a 5 percent financial interest and that compete or do business with the university, or that would be affected by your activities for sponsoring organizations.
8. Identify any health-related research, education or training foundation with which you are involved.
9. Describe any actual or potential conflicts between your outside interests or activities and your duties and responsibilities to the university and sponsoring organizations.

For more information contact Melanie Burlison at 448-8030.

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# People

On Thursday, March 11, UTHSC faculty members **Eldridge Johnson, PhD** and **Muriel Rice, PhD** will be honored by Allstate Insurance Company with the 2004 From Whence We Came Awards. They were selected specifically for the roles they have played in mentoring minority students in the Memphis area. Earlier this year, one of the students they have worked with, Jada Johnson, was recognized nationally by the NAACP for a project inspired through her UT affiliation.

**Helena Parfenova, PhD**, associate professor of physiology, was recently awarded a 5-year grant totaling \$1,181,690 from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke titled "Heme Oxygenase and Cerebral Vascular Injury."

**Diane Pace, MSN, PhD**, instructor in the College of Nursing, received the 2003 Outstanding Political Nurse Award from the Tennessee Nurses Association.



Dr. Pace was also recently featured in an article for NurseWeek.com that discussed women's heart health. The full article is available at [www.nurseweek.com/news/features/04-01/womensheart.asp](http://www.nurseweek.com/news/features/04-01/womensheart.asp)

**Seema Khurana, PhD**, associate professor of physiology, was recently awarded a 5-year grant totaling \$1,636,290 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases titled "Regulation of Epithelial Cell Motility by Villin."

**Malak Kotb, PhD**, professor of surgery, recently served on the organizing committee for the second annual ASM Biodefense Conference that will be held in Baltimore on March 7-10. The conference covers multiple areas related to the latest advances in biodefense research and preparedness. Dr. Kotb is also chairing a symposium on novel models for mapping susceptibility and immune modulatory genes in infectious diseases. **Robert Williams, PhD**, Dunavant Professor of Pediatrics, will be a featured speaker at the symposium.

Dr. Kotb was also invited to participate in NIH expert panels on the HLA genetics in immune-mediated and infectious diseases, as well as the prevention of group A streptococcal diseases and their sequelae.

**William Frey, PhD**, associate dean for student and academic affairs in the College of Allied Health, has been selected as one of eight participants in the Coalition of Allied Health Leadership Program by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). Dr. Frey was selected from nominees from ASAHP member schools from across the country. He is the first University of Tennessee Health Science Center faculty member to participate in this national leadership program.



## Congratulations

**Miea J. Watson**, administrative research specialist in the department of general internal medicine, and her husband, Darrell D. Watson, gave birth to a daughter, Dorcas Makayla, on January 28.



*Rita Geier, JD discusses her experiences challenging discrimination in Tennessee's institutions of higher education. Geier spoke as part of UTHSC's celebration of Black History Month.*

# News Bites

UT Federal Credit Union will be opening a full-service branch in the 910 Madison Building, Suite 100, in the coming months.

UT Federal Credit Union will offer low cost financial services to UTHSC faculty, staff and students. For more information about the credit union, visit [www.utfcu.org](http://www.utfcu.org).

It is now possible to request on-site service for computer software problems without calling the HelpDesk call center. Browse on the web to <http://helpdesk.utmem.edu>. Click on "Request Onsite Service". Fill out the form in its entirety, and click "Submit". A ticket will be generated, and a software technician will come to your location to fix your problem.

The College of Medicine Caducues Ball will be held on March 20 at 6 p.m. at the Peabody Hotel Grand Ballroom. The theme this year will be a Masquerade Ball. Entertainment will be provided by the New Memphis Hepcats. For more information, contact [AGrubb@utmem.edu](mailto:AGrubb@utmem.edu) or Linda Gregory at 448-5698 or [lgregory@utmem.edu](mailto:lgregory@utmem.edu).

UTHSC's Health Careers Opportunity Program is currently underway through March 20 and is exposing students to a variety of health careers. Designed for students interested in the health professions who want to accelerate their studies in math and science, the program offers two programs: an eight-week winter program featuring information-packed Saturdays, and a summer program offering seminars, classes and workshops. Some of the segments for the winter session have included a seminar on health etiquette (5<sup>th</sup> graders), CPR certification through the Red Cross (11<sup>th</sup> graders) and sessions on gross dissection.

## UT Healthworks to Continue Service

The Department of Human Services has awarded UT Healthworks a bid for the eighth consecutive year to continue providing contractual services. With a mission to increase performance outcomes through expanding training opportunities and enhancing work quality, UT Healthworks began in 1996 as part of a collaborative between UTHSC, the Tennessee Department of Human Services, and Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis to provide technical skills training in allied health careers. All of the

training programs require students to successfully demonstrate proficiency in classroom and clinical skills, as well as have sufficient competency scores on mandatory state board exams before becoming officially certified or licensed to practice in their occupations.

In 2001/2002, UT Healthworks shifted to "core agency" status, expanding the scope of services to include components such as: career assessments, employment career services, fresh start/PACE, job skills training and soft skills training.



*Pictured, left to right, are UT Healthworks staff members Regina Boyd, Tereska Davis, Chaka Conway, Clara Miller, Katie Smith-Fifer, Teresa Thompson, Melinda Dabney, Theresa Rice, Yoriann Moore, Barbara Humphreys and Chareta Nesbit.*

## EAP Awareness Month

Governor Phil Bredesen has declared March Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Awareness Month. As a result, EAP seminars are being offered across the state at no cost to all employees. Reservations are required for these seminars targeting managers/supervisors and employees.

Supervisory training for UTHSC managers/supervisors will be held on March 23 from 9 to 11 a.m. in rooms 204-207 of the Student Alumni Center (SAC). This training is designed to help them in referring employees who may benefit from EAP counseling services.

UTHSC employees are also strongly encouraged to attend the seminar titled, "Recognizing the Positives: Catching Others at Their Best" in the SAC on March 23 from noon to 1 p.m. in rooms 204-207. This seminar will help raise awareness of the positives in the workplace and give suggestions on incorporating them into all of life's situations. Attendees will also learn how to alleviate stress and improve their sense of well-being.

For information and reservations, contact Michael Alston at 448-8112 or visit [www.utmem.edu/oed/FebruaryTraining2004.htm](http://www.utmem.edu/oed/FebruaryTraining2004.htm).



# Campus Calendar

MARCH 2004

- 1** “Hepatitis C: Genetic Diversity in HVR1 and Therapeutic Response”  
*Dr. Vicki Park*  
4 p.m., Link Auditorium  
More info: rhor@utmem.edu
- 2** “Sleepless in Dallas: Potassium Channel-dependent Physiology of Motor and Sleep Behavior”  
*Dr. Rolf Joho*  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu

“Developments in siRNA-based Gene Silencing”  
*Dr. Steve Daniel*  
10 a.m., Coleman, Room A132
- 4** “Hypothesis: How Too Much Insulin Turns Nitric Oxide from a Defensive to an Offensive Substance in Blood Vessels”  
*Dr. Aviv Hassid*  
3:30 p.m., Nash, Room 516  
More info: mwood@tennessee.edu

“Mass Casualty Management: Chemical Decontamination, Triage and Personal Protective Equipment”  
*Holt Clark*  
11:30 a.m., GEB, Room A304  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu

“GHB, Rave and Club Drugs”  
*Satellite Broadcast by the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force*  
Noon, Le Bonheur Auditorium  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu
- 8** “Emerging Infections”  
*Dr. Brian Mahy*  
4 p.m., Link Auditorium  
More info: rhor@utmem.edu
- 9** “Retinal Degeneration in an Animal Model of Smith-Lemli-Opitz Syndrome”  
*Dr. Steven Fliesler*  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu
- 10** “STD Update for Clinicians and Counselors”  
*Satellite Broadcast by Donna Meyers*  
2 p.m., Le Bonheur Auditorium  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu
- 11** “The ER-derived Pre-chylomicron Transport Vesicle Utilizes VAMP 7 as a v-SNARE and Fuses with the Golgi in a Novel Fusion Complex”  
*Dr. Charles M. Mansbach*  
3:30 p.m., Nash, Room 516  
More info: mwood@tennessee.edu
- 12** “The Development of Systems to Expose Cells and Animals to Electromagnetic Radiation. Engineering Experience and Summary of Biological Results”  
*Dr. Eduardo G. Moros*  
3:30 p.m., U of M Engineering Admin. Bldg. Auditorium  
More info: mjames@latte.memphis.edu
- 16** Office of Human Subject Protections Research Forum  
“What’s Wrong with This Picture: A Critical Look at the Informed Consent Process”  
Noon, 910 Madison, Suite 808 conference room  
More info: jgardner@utmem.edu

“Fun in the Son: A Model System Reveals Brain Secrets”  
*Dr. Glenn I. Hatton*  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: bjsmith@utmem.edu
- 18** “Primary and Secondary Prevention of Cervical Cancer in Latina Immigrants”  
*Dr. Isabel Scarinci*  
10 a.m., 66 North Pauline, Room 400  
More info: cnunnall@utmem.edu

“Bioterror and Emergency Department Personnel”  
*Dr. David Linn*  
11:30 a.m., GEB, Room A304  
More info: jtidwel8@utmem.edu

“Regulation of CFTR Channel in Epithelia”  
*Dr. Paul M. Quinton*  
3:30 p.m., Nash, Room 516  
More info: mwood@tennessee.edu



# Campus Calendar

MARCH 2004

- 19** “Biomems/Nanobiotechnology”  
*Dr. Shuvo Roy*  
3:30 p.m., U of M Engineering Admin. Bldg. Auditorium  
More info: [mjames@latte.memphis.edu](mailto:mjames@latte.memphis.edu)
- 23** “A View of Alcohol Abuse on Neurodevelopment Through the Window of Serotonin”  
*Dr. Feng C. Zhou*  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: [bjsmith@utm.edu](mailto:bjsmith@utm.edu)
- 25** “New Pathways in Nitric Oxide Signalling”  
*Dr. Thomas L. Michel*  
3:30 p.m., Nash, Room 516  
More info: [mwood@tennessee.edu](mailto:mwood@tennessee.edu)
- 25-26** Nursing Advanced Practice Pharmacology Update  
*Focus: Management of chronic illnesses in primary care*  
Holiday Inn Select Memphis East  
Registration for both days is \$109  
Nursing and Pharmacy continuing ed. credit offered.  
Single-day registration is also available.  
More info: [mmrobinson@utm.edu](mailto:mmrobinson@utm.edu) or 901-448-6407
- 26** “Nitric Oxide Release/Generating Polymers: Preparation, Characterization and Biomedical Applications”  
*Dr. Mark Meyerhoff*  
3:30 p.m., U of M Engineering Admin. Bldg. Auditorium  
More info: [mjames@latte.memphis.edu](mailto:mjames@latte.memphis.edu)
- 30** “Preparedness Update: Chemical Risk Assessment in an Uncertain World”  
*Satellite Conference with Dr. Jay Gandy*  
Noon, Le Bonheur Auditorium  
More info: [jtidwel8@utm.edu](mailto:jtidwel8@utm.edu)
- “Orosensory Contributions to Alcohol Ingestion”  
*Dr. Susan M. Brassler*  
Noon, Link Auditorium  
More info: [bjsmith@utm.edu](mailto:bjsmith@utm.edu)