

An important component of Baylor's long-term strategic plan is the commitment to expand laboratory space for biomedical research and create an environment that will be conducive to interdisciplinary collaboration. On September 15, 2005, construction began on the eight-story Margaret M. Alkek Building for Biomedical Research. The 170,000-square-foot research tower—which includes five floors of laboratories, office space, and two vivarium floors with a 30,000-cage capacity—will be ready for occupancy during the latter part of 2007. The building is being constructed on the south side of the main Baylor campus, between Garage 6 and the Jewish Building.

## New Vistas for Biomedical Research



The following fields of research will play a major role in the interdisciplinary initiatives to be launched at the Alkek Tower: cancer, the cardiovascular sciences, diabetes and metabolic diseases, imaging, informatics and proteomics, and pharmacogenomics. In addition to providing necessary space in which to conduct cutting-edge research, the new facility will enhance Baylor's ability to retain and recruit leading biomedical researchers.

## Hurricane Katrina: Picking up the Pieces

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina began to wreak havoc on the Gulf Coast—from Louisiana, to Mississippi and Alabama. Initially, Louisiana did not experience the full brunt of the storm. However, on August 30th,



*A young evacuee at play in the Reliant Center.*

levees broke and the entire city of New Orleans became flooded and uninhabitable. Although many had evacuated before the storm hit New Orleans, large numbers of people remained with their homes or were unable to escape. When the water rose to the rooftops, many did not survive. In the ensuing weeks, more than 200,000 men, women, and children were evacuated from southeastern Louisiana to other parts of Louisiana, Texas, and neighboring states; 27,000 individuals were accepted by the Astrodome and Reliant Center in Houston, Texas. While housing in the Astrodome was organized by the American Red Cross, the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), in conjunction with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), erected a comprehensive round-the-clock medical unit for evacuees within hours of their arrival. Volunteer health professionals from BCM,

HCHD, institutions within the Texas Medical Center, and volunteer medical staff from other cities in the U.S. evaluated and treated the evacuees.

In addition to their deep concern for the health and safety of the Katrina victims evacuated to Houston, BCM and other medical institutions in Texas were troubled about the prospects of their sister medical school at Tulane University (TU-SOM). Although most of its students, residents, fellows, staff, and faculty reached safety, the destruction in New Orleans had jeopardized the future of the school. In response to this dilemma, the



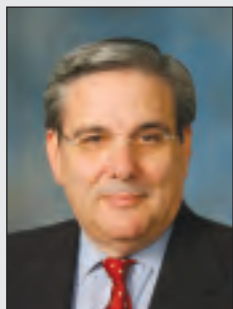
*A community of Katrina evacuees at the Astrodome.*

Alliance of South Texas Academic Health Centers was forged to assist in the survival of TU-SOM. Within a month of Katrina, BCM and three other Texas medical schools were hosting orientations for their TU-SOM colleagues, providing housing, classroom facilities, office space, research project assistance, clinical rotations, and a clinic for the treatment of TU-SOM employees, students, and faculty.

In the aftermath of Katrina, we are still picking up the pieces, like a child with a puzzle. The healing and

*continued on page 7*

## Comments from the Chair



When I consider the year 2005, one event eclipses all the rest: *Hurricane Katrina*.

The manner in which the Texas Medical Center, the Houston community, and regional health and human services organizations mobilized to address the needs of the 27,000 displaced persons who found their way to the Houston Astrodome complex is likely to remain with me for a very long time. I am particularly proud of BCM's leadership role in helping to provide expert and timely care to 11,245 Katrina evacuees during a brief, 2 1/2-week period. In all, more than 800 physicians volunteered their time—roughly 700 of whom were from Baylor College of Medicine—along with many dedicated BCM students, residents, and staff.

Thomas Gavagan, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Vice Chair for Community Health,  
Department of Family and Community

Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, was indefatigable in his efforts to serve as Medical Director of the 100,000-square-foot outpatient clinic established at the Astrodome complex. We also owe an immense debt of gratitude to the administration, nursing staff, and lab personnel of the Harris County Hospital District for their role in developing and maintaining the infrastructure that was so essential to clinic operations.

Our Katrina clinic at the Astrodome complex quickly expanded to 65 exam rooms, where the medical staff administered thousands of immunizations, filled thousands of prescriptions, and treated patients for chest pain, drug addiction withdrawal, dehydration, broken bones, chronic conditions (e.g., high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, etc.), upper respiratory infections, gastrointestinal infections, skin conditions, and one gunshot wound. In addition to healthy representation from virtually all the sections within the Department of Medicine, BCM psychiatric staff provided mental health counseling to the many traumatized evacuees, and specialized care to those with psychiatric conditions. Ultimately, it was

the very young and the very old who suffered most during and after Katrina, and the efforts of our pediatricians and geriatricians are due special acknowledgment and praise.

In the months after Katrina, many of us are analyzing data and evaluating our response to this disaster for future improvement in areas such as initial patient registration, ancillary services and resources, capacity, emergency transportation, and expediting care and relocation for special needs patients. As we consider our performance during this crisis, and as we evaluate and interpret the data and make plans to serve more effectively in the event of another natural or man-made disaster, let's not lose sight of the lessons we've learned from these patients and the subsequent growth in our own humanity.

Stephen B. Greenberg  
*Chair, Department of Medicine*

## Dewey and Colleagues Plan to Transform the BCM Curriculum with the Aid of NIH Funding

Charlene Dewey, M.D., F.A.C.P., M.Ed., Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, and Assistant Chief of General Internal Medicine, Ben Taub General Hospital, is the Principal Investigator of a newly announced National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research grant entitled, "Relationship-centered Transformation of Curricula." This grant was one of nine submissions, out of eighty, selected to receive NIH funding (\$1.2 million, over 5 years), and its preparation required the support and collaboration of many institutional leaders and influential faculty at Baylor.

All ten leading health indicators provided by *Healthy People 2010* reflect behavioral and social issues that are implicated in roughly half of the morbidity and mortality experienced by Americans. In responding to this challenge, 21st century medical graduates will need to acquire a full range of knowledge, skills,

attitudes, and behaviors that focus on the behavioral, social and biomedical sciences. Informal and social forces within the medical school environment, commonly termed the "hidden curriculum," often marginalize the importance of the behavioral and social sciences. Taking this into account, Dewey, her co-investigators, and collaborators plan to counter these forces by influencing BCM institutional relationships.

A basic assumption of the grant is that enhancing relationships—between teachers and students, among students themselves, and between students and their patients—is essential to improving medical education. The grant will



Charlene Dewey

*continued on page 7*

## Spotlight on Faculty: Dr. N. Tony Eissa

### Exploring the Post-translational Regulation of iNOS

**D**r. N. Tony Eissa, Associate Professor, Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, received his undergraduate and M.D. degrees from the University of Tanta in Egypt. Subsequently, he completed a residency in internal medicine at Cornell University and a critical care medicine fellowship at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. After training in pulmonary physiology with the legendary J. Milic-Emili at McGill University, Eissa realized the necessity of understanding biology at the molecular level, and he worked with another celebrated researcher, Dr. Ronald Crystal, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

In 1999, Dr. Eissa was recruited from the NHLBI to Baylor College of Medicine. Since that time, he has established an internationally renowned laboratory, where he and his colleagues concentrate on an important mediator of inflammation: inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), which regulates nitric oxide (NO) synthesis.

The overproduction of nitric oxide by iNOS has been implicated in the pathogenesis of many inflammatory

diseases, including asthma, and Dr. Eissa's laboratory is advancing our understanding of precisely how cells regulate NO synthesis, while seeking to develop novel therapeutic strategies in the treatment of inflammatory disorders associated with NO overproduction. As evidenced by recent publications in *PNAS*, the work of Eissa *et al.* on iNOS regulation is seminal.

Moreover, Dr. Eissa's most recent work has demonstrated that iNOS localizes to the aggresome; these studies will shed important light on the role of the aggresome in relation to iNOS turnover and cell function. By way of background, cells rely on small, but specific, molecules called proteins to perform their various vital functions. Each cell has many copies of thousands of types of proteins roaming around the cell at any given moment. Every copy of a protein must be folded in a specific form and sent to its destination; thus, precision in folding and trafficking proteins is vital to the health of a cell. Errors in performing part of this task

are responsible for many diseases associated with misfolding, aggregation, and subsequent sequestration of these

proteins as inclusion bodies called aggresomes. These aggresomes have been associated with lung diseases such as cystic fibrosis, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and some forms of lung fibrosis, along with several neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, dementia, and

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Currently, Dr. Eissa is the PI on three R01 grants, a K02 award, and a T32 training grant, as well as American Heart Association and Alpha-1 Foundation grants. Previously, he has been accorded a number of local and BCM institutional grants and several illustrious visiting professorships. In addition, he is an active organizer and speaker for international conferences hosted by the American Thoracic Society.

In sum, Dr. Eissa is an accomplished investigator on an upward track, and he and his team are increasingly recognized for their work—though it's a standing joke in the lab that they get NO respect!



N. Tony Eissa

## Hamill to Serve as New Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program

**R**ichard J. Hamill, M.D., Professor, Section of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, has been appointed to succeed Dr. Amir Halevy as Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program, starting in July of 2006. Dr. Halevy will be leaving the post as Director in order to pursue a law degree.

Dr. Hamill received his medical degree from the Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Wayne State University Affiliated Hospitals, where he served as Chief Medical Resident. He completed a Fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Following his fellowship, Dr. Hamill joined the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MEDVAMC), where he served for a period of time as Associate

Chief of the Medical Service. An outstanding educator and clinical investigator, Dr. Hamill has had a long and illustrious career with BCM and MEDVAMC. After assuming his new position as Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program, Hamill plans to maintain some of his patient care and teaching activities within the Infectious Diseases Service at MEDVAMC. Dr. Hamill has served for many years on the Resident Selection and Evaluation Committees and, in his new leadership role, he will be instrumental in the continued growth and national prominence of our outstanding internal medicine residency program.



Richard J. Hamill

## Faculty in Focus

### **Neena S. Abraham, M.D., M.Sc., received a REGAL Award.**

Neena S. Abraham, M.D., M.Sc.,



*Abraham*

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Gastroenterology and Health Services Research Sections, Department of Medicine, received a 2005 Research

Excellence in GI and Liver (REGAL) Award, in acknowledgment of her research study entitled, "National adherence to evidence-based guidelines for the prescription of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs."

### **Paul F. Bray, M.D., will serve as Chair of an ASH Scientific Committee.**

Paul F. Bray, M.D., Section Chief of



*Bray*

Thrombosis Research, Department of Medicine, has agreed to serve as Chair of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Scientific Committee on Platelets during 2006.

### **Lawrence Chan, M.B.B.S., D.Sc., hosted a Baylor/ADA Diabetes Day and Tour.**

Lawrence Chan, M.B.B.S., D.Sc., Section



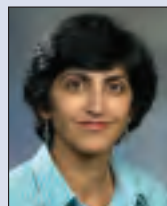
*Chan*

Chief of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism, Department of Medicine, and his colleagues at Baylor and the American Diabetes Association

(ADA) hosted a Diabetes Day and Tour on November 29, 2005. Attended by diabetes patients and their families, as well as health care and other interested professionals, this annual event provides important updates on the latest diabetes research and treatment. On November 30th, Dr. Chan hosted a meeting at which the ADA's National Vice President for Research Programs, Dr. Scott Campbell, discussed American Diabetes Association funding opportunities available to BCM faculty.

### **Anita Deswal, M.D., M.P.H., received a Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award.**

Anita Deswal, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant



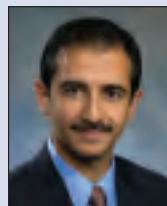
*Deswal*

Professor of Medicine, Cardiology and Health Services Research Sections, Department of Medicine, received a Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty

Excellence Award in the *Development of Enduring Educational Materials* category. As a recipient of this award, Dr. Deswal becomes a member of the Academy of Distinguished Educators.

### **Hashem El-Serag, M.D., M.P.H., held two Visiting Professorships during 2005.**

In 2005, Hashem El-Serag, M.D.,



*El-Serag*

M.P.H., Associate Professor of Medicine, Gastroenterology and Health Services Research Sections, Department of Medicine, held a

visiting professorship position with both the University of Iowa and the University of California at Los Angeles.

### **Thomas P. Giordano, M.D., M.P.H., has been named Medical Director of HIV Services for HCHD.**

Thomas P. Giordano, M.D., M.P.H.,



*Giordano*

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Health Services Research Sections, Department of Medicine, has been named Medical Director of HIV

Services for the Harris County Hospital District; he has been the Acting Medical Director since August of 2004. The responsibilities of this position include service as the Medical Director for the Thomas Street Health Center—the Hospital District's clinic for HIV-infected adolescents and adults, and one of the largest HIV clinics in the U.S.—

and oversight of the satellite HIV clinics at the Northwest Health Center and the Settegast Health Center. Dr. Giordano has also been charged with integrating all HIV testing and care provided by the Hospital District, including outpatient and inpatient pavilions and emergency centers, to improve the quality and efficacy of HIV care. Dr. Giordano's NIH-funded research focuses on access to health care and health disparities vis-à-vis racial and ethnic minorities with HIV, as well as issues related to HIV patient compliance.

### **David Y. Graham, M.D., M.A.C.G., received the Samuel S. Weiss Award from the ACG.**

David Y. Graham, M.D., M.A.C.G.,



*Graham*

Section Chief of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, was accorded the 2005 Samuel S. Weiss Award by the American College of

Gastroenterology (ACG), in recognition of his outstanding career service. Dr. Graham is internationally recognized for his expertise in medicine and gastroenterology, and is the author of more than 680 scientific papers, several books, and 100 chapters in medical text books. Among other prestigious posts and honors, he previously served as a physician to the astronauts of the Apollo space program at NASA.

### **Francisca C. Gushiken, M.D., received an AHA grant award.**

Francisca C. Gushiken, M.D., Assistant



*Gushiken*

Professor of Medicine, Thrombosis Research Section, Department of Medicine, received an American Heart Association (AHA) National Scientist Development grant

award to undertake a study entitled, "The role of platelet-derived CD40L and endothelial cell-derived CD40 in atherosclerosis."

## Faculty in Focus

### Paul Haidet, M.D., M.P.H., received a Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award.

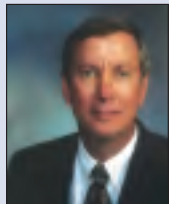
Paul Haidet, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Health Services Research Section, Department of Medicine, received a Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award in the *Educational Research* category; Dr. Haidet also serves as an active member of the Academy of Distinguished Educators.



Haidet

### David P. Huston, M.D., will serve as a member of the NIH Hypersensitivity, Autoimmune, and Immune-mediated Diseases Study Section.

David P. Huston, M.D., Section Chief of Immunology, Allergy, and Rheumatology and Director of the Biology of Inflammation Center, Department of Medicine, has accepted an invitation by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to serve as a member of the Hypersensitivity, Autoimmune, and Immune-mediated Diseases Study Section, Center for Scientific Review. Dr. Huston's service will extend through June 30, 2009.



Huston

### Mark Kunik, M.D., M.P.H., received a Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award.

Mark Kunik, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Director of the Houston Center for Quality of Care and Utilization Studies, Health Services Research Section, Department of Medicine and Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, received a Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Faculty Excellence Award in the *Educational Leadership* category. As a recipient of this award, Dr. Kunik becomes a member of the Academy of Distinguished Educators.



Kunik

### Aanand Naik, M.D., M.P.H., received recognition for his research from the AGS Foundation for Health in Aging.

Aanand Naik, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Health Services Research Section, Department of Medicine, and his colleague, Dr. Thomas M. Gill of Yale University, recently

received recognition from the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Foundation for Health in Aging. The AGS Foundation will utilize findings derived from cutting-edge geriatrics research, such as those of Drs. Naik and Gill, in its new information dissemination web initiative benefiting adults and their caregivers. See the September link entitled, "Many Older Adults Don't Have Necessary Bathing Safety Aids" at: [www.healthinaging.org/agingintheknow/research.asp](http://www.healthinaging.org/agingintheknow/research.asp); the original article by Drs. Naik and Gill entitled, "Underutilization of Environmental Adaptations for Bathing in Community-living Older Persons," was published in the September 2005 issue of the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*.

### C. Kent Osborne, M.D., received a Jacqueline Seroussi Award.

C. Kent Osborne, M.D., Professor, Departments of Medicine and Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Director of The Breast Center and The Cancer Center, received one of six cancer research awards granted in 2005 by The Jacqueline Seroussi Memorial Foundation for Cancer Research. The Jacqueline Seroussi Award will fund Dr. Osborne's project entitled, "Endocrine Therapy Resistance: Molecular Fingerprinting of Cancer."



Osborne

### John M. Vierling, M.D., F.A.C.P., will serve as President of the AASLD in 2006.

John M. Vierling, M.D., F.A.C.P., Professor, Departments of Medicine and Surgery, Director of Baylor Liver Health, and Chief of Hepatology at Baylor College of Medicine, was elected

the 2006 President of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) during its annual meeting in November of 2005. Dr. Vierling has previously chaired key AASLD committees, including Training and Education, Publications, and Public Policy. The AASLD is the world's leading international organization dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of hepatology.

### K. Vinod Vijayan, Ph.D., received an NIH/NHLBI R01 grant.

K. Vinod Vijayan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Thrombosis Research Section, Department of Medicine, received an R01 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); the proposed studies will involve serine/threonine phosphatases and platelet physiology.



Vijayan

### Vijay K. Yechoor, M.D., received a JDRF Innovative Grant.

Vijay K. Yechoor, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism Section, Department of Medicine, received a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Innovative Grant for his study entitled, "Gene Therapy-induced Autoimmunity-evading Islet Neogenesis Reverses Diabetes."



Yechoor

## Rebirth and Progress in the Section of Cardiology

Dr. Douglas Mann never anticipated the daunting circumstances he would face just three brief months after accepting the position of Section Chief of Cardiology in May, 2005. With the voluntary resignation of nine Methodist Hospital-based Baylor cardiologists and more than forty Baylor Heart Clinic employees in August of 2005, all of his leadership skills were immediately tested. Although Dr. Mann indicates that, in any place other than the Texas Medical Center, this loss of personnel might have been a devastating blow to Baylor's clinical and research programs, it soon became apparent that there were unique opportunities among the challenges. Herein, is a brief summary of the section's progress and future direction in the areas of clinical care, teaching, and research.

**Clinical Care:** During the latter part of 2005, the new Baylor Heart Clinic—located on the 12th floor at 6620 Main—was strengthened through the addition of two new faculty whose focus is patient care, as well as new support staff. By adopting a “service first” clinical model, patient visits and cardiac procedures have increased dramatically over the past several months. To help sustain growth in the clinic, three to four physicians will be

added over the course of 2006, in order to implement several new clinical programs. Imaging capabilities have also been expanded, with the addition of state-of-the-art imaging equipment. Progress in the outpatient arena is now



*Douglas Mann*

complemented by a 24/7 inpatient consultative support team at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital/Texas Heart Institute, where a new interventionalist will also initiate an inpatient interventional service in late January or early February.

**Teaching:** On September 1, 2005, nine Methodist-based Cardiology Fellows were redeployed into high-quality teaching programs at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital/Texas Heart Institute, Ben Taub General Hospital, and the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MEDVAMC). This redeployment was recently approved by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Currently, the Cardiology Section is in the process of updating, improving, and standardizing its newly configured teaching program across all three hospitals, so that trainees can receive a uniform clinical experience. Over the next several years, the plan will be to merge the Baylor 1 and 2 Cardiology Fellowships, which will aid the section in

establishing one of the premier training environments in the country.

**Research:** Despite its effect on the section's clinical programs, the departure of the Methodist-based Baylor faculty had no impact on NIH- or VA-funded research programs, which will continue to thrive in the research environments provided by St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital/Texas Heart Institute, Ben Taub General Hospital, and the MEDVAMC.

Plans for the future include the recruitment of an additional four to six research-intensive faculty who will occupy an 18,000 square foot area in the Margaret M. Alkek Building for Biomedical Research. Recruitment of the new faculty—whose focus will be in the areas of proteomics, genomics/genetics, and bioinformatics—will occur in late 2006, so that they will be in place by the time the new research space becomes available. Clinical research faculty will also be added to strengthen existing clinical trial and database management capabilities. Moreover, all of the proposed recruits will become part of the interdisciplinary cardiovascular center.

For 20 years, the Section of Cardiology at Baylor College of Medicine has enjoyed an exceptional reputation for high quality clinical care and innovative research programs and, under leadership of Dr. Mann, this tradition is certain to continue.

## Outstanding Visiting Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine Focuses on Stem Cells and Cardiac Repair

During a three-day visiting professorship at Baylor College of Medicine in December, Dr. Stefanie Dimmeler, a leading vascular biologist with the University of Frankfurt, conducted a series of three lectures on the latest human studies employing stem cells from bone marrow and the bloodstream to repair and regenerate the heart.

A pioneer in the therapeutic use of adult stem cells in patients with heart disease, Dimmeler lectured on “Molecular Mechanisms of Endothelial Cell Specification: Role of HoxA9” (i.e., how blood flow activates genes that engender the formation of blood vessels) on December 6th. She also served as keynote

*continued on page 8*



*Visiting Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine (December 6-8, 2005). (left to right) Margaret A. Goodell, Ph.D.; Robert J. Schwartz, Ph.D.; Visiting Professor, Stefanie Dimmeler, Ph.D.; Michael Schneider, M.D.; and Lawrence C.B. Chan, M.B.B.S., D.Sc.*

*"Dewey and Colleagues Plan to Transform the BCM Curriculum with the Aid of NIH Funding"*  
continued from page 2

be implemented by working closely with curriculum leaders to enhance balance in the BCM curriculum among the behavioral, biomedical, and social sciences, as identified in the 2004 Institute of Medicine report, *Improving Medical Education: Enhancing the Behavioral and Social Science Content of Medical School Curricula*. Dewey et al. are enthusiastic about the promising opportunities afforded by this grant, including the implementation of curricular innovations proposed in recent strategic plans (e.g., student societies and a capstone course) and the protection of faculty time to accelerate the current rate of continuous improvement in the medical school curriculum, among other strategies.

*"Hurricane Katrina: Picking up the Pieces"*  
continued from page 1

rebuilding process will take a great deal more time than we had anticipated. Notwithstanding the systemic and leadership failures at so many levels, we are learning from our mistakes—and next time, as a nation, we will be better prepared to extend ourselves on behalf of those in crisis.

Here in Houston, the Texas Medical Center marshaled and organized its forces quickly and effectively, in the spirit of compassion and friendship. Among those to be credited for the success of our city's humanitarian effort are the numerous BCM faculty, students, residents, and staff, who gave so much in the service of those displaced by Katrina.

## Appointments and Promotions

The following faculty appointments and/or promotions were made:

### ATHEROSCLEROSIS

John B. Massey, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor*

### CARDIOLOGY

Sheila K. Heinle, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Biswajit Kar, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Haroon-Ur Rashid, M.D., Ph.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Mehdi Razavi, M.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

### CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES

Nikolaos G. Frangogiannis, M.D.

*Associate Professor*

### ENDOCRINOLOGY

Placido B. Grino, M.D.

*Associate Professor*

Ramaswami Nalini, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Susan L. Samson, M.D., Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Tsang-Cheng Shao, Ph.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

### GASTROENTEROLOGY

Mazen Asadi, M.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Waqar A. Qureshi, M.D.

*Associate Professor*

Gregory L. Shannon, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Harold Shelby, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

### GENERAL MEDICINE

Maurilio Garcia-Maldonado, M.D.

*Clinical Associate Professor*

Mary S. Gleason, M.S.N.

*Instructor*

Penelope Gonzalez, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Dhruv S. Kazi, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Hashim Khandwalla, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Adam M. Mitchell, M.D.

*Instructor*

Bhuvana Muthuswamy, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Catherine U. Okonji, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Sanjay R. Pallegar, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Sameer Parikh, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Jeffrey Alan Ross, D.P.M., M.D.

*Clinical Associate Professor*

Stephanie M. Smith, M.D.

*Clinical Instructor*

Maria H. Vogel, M.S.N.

*Instructor*

Sherry C. Wang, M.D.

*Instructor*

### HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Lara Melanie Colton, M.D.

*Instructor*

Sylvia J. Hysong, Ph.D.

*Instructor*

Achilia S. J. Morrow, M.D.

*Instructor*

Richard L. Street, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor*

### HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

Powel H. Brown, M.D., Ph.D.

*Professor*

Xylina T. Gregg, M.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

Priya Ramshesh, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

Jiang Shou, Ph.D.

*Instructor*

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Karlene C. Reid, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

### NEPHROLOGY

Tam Viet Ho, M.D.

*Clinical Assistant Professor*

### PULMONARY

Shyamsunder Subramanian, M.D.

*Assistant Professor*

## Dyer Attends White House Conference on Aging

In December of 2005, Carmel Dyer, M.D., Director of the Harris County Hospital District Geriatrics Program, attended the White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) as one of 1200 delegates chosen by elected officials from federal and state government. Delegates voted on 73 resolutions dealing with elder issues of national concern; 7 of the top 10 involved

significant reforms in a number of areas related to health care, including Medicare and Medicaid, long-term care financing, and the training of adequate numbers of health care professionals who specialize in geriatrics. A topical measure encouraging the development of an evacuation strategy for seniors—to be coordinated by federal, state, and local government—in the event of public health

continued on page 8

*"Outstanding Visiting Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine Focuses on Stem Cells and Cardiac Repair" continued from page 6*

speaker at a three-hour symposium on "Molecular and Cellular Biology of Cardiac Regeneration and Repair" held on December 7th. Other speakers included Drs. Michael Schneider, Lawrence Chan, and Margaret Goodell of Baylor College of Medicine, as well as Dr. Robert Schwartz, Associate Director of the Texas A&M Institute of Biosciences and Technology, and Dr. James T. Willerson, President of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Topics ranged from the newest bench science advances in the genetic reprogramming of cells to promote regeneration in heart disease and diabetes, to an update on recent clinical trials. Finally, on December 8th, Dr. Dimmeler presented a Baylor Medical Grand Rounds lecture entitled, "Stem Cells for Cardiac Repair – From Bench to Bedside and Back Again."

In one of the first randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blinded trials utilizing stem cells for cardiac repair, Dimmeler and colleagues showed the effectiveness of human bone marrow stem cells in improving ventricular pump function among patients with recent myocardial infarction. Viewed as more conclusive than the previous small-scale pilot studies, Dr. Dimmeler's Phase II trial was conducted at nearly 20 medical centers in Germany and Switzerland. The results of the study were announced at the November 2005 American Heart Association meeting in Dallas.

Dimmeler is a recent recipient of the Leibniz Prize, the highest scientific honor bestowed by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the German equivalent to the National Institutes of Health. Her research is supported in part through the Leducq Foundation Transatlantic

Network of Excellence for Cardiac Regeneration, an international consortium headed by Dr. Michael Schneider.

Dr. Dimmeler's Visiting Professorship in Cardiovascular Medicine was sponsored by Pfizer and the American College of Cardiology Foundation. Additional support was provided by Novartis and the Leducq Foundation. Co-hosts for this event were the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy, the Atherosclerosis and Vascular Biology Research Training Program, and the DeBakey Heart Center Graduate Program in Cardiovascular Sciences.

*"Dyer Attends WHCOA" continued from page 7*

emergencies or disasters was among the top 50 resolutions. The 17-member Policy Committee for the WHCOA will provide the President and Congress a final report on adopted resolutions and implementation strategies by mid-2006.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Quarterly Faculty Meeting*  
Monday, May 15, 2006

4:30 p.m.  
DeBakey M-112

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