Accolades

◆ **Charles Fraser Jr., M.D.,** Texas Children's Heart Center's cardiac surgeon in charge, has been appointed the Donovan Chair of the Emmett Augustus Jones Foundation. The mission of the foundation, named after a premature twin infant who died from hypoplastic left-heart syndrome, is to advance the field of pediatric congenital heart care through research, education and family assistance at Texas Children's. The foundation funds the Donovan Chair, as well as an advanced pediatric fellowship for cardiac surgeons at Texas Children's. The fellowships allow top cardiovascular surgeons to study with Fraser in the highly specialized field of pediatric congenital heart surgery. Fraser also is chief of congenital heart surgery at Texas Children's Hospital and associate professor of surgery and pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.



◆ **Michael Frick,** associate vice president for development at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, has been named the new Council for Advancement and Support of Education chairman, District IV. During his two-year tenure, he will work with the council staff and volunteers to help members advance private philanthropic and public support of education through stronger relationships with alumni and donors, fund raising for campus projects, creating recruitment materials and marketing to prospective students, and enhancing the diversity of the profession. Council for Advancement and Support of Education membership includes professionals who work in academic alumni relations, communications and development. Its membership includes more than 3,000 colleges, universities and independent elementary and secondary schools in the United States, Canada, Mexico and 42 other countries.



◆ **Dr. Kevin M. Slawin,** director of Baylor College of Medicine's Prostate Center, has been named "Eminent Scientist and Outstanding Scholar of the Year 2001" by the International Research Promotion Council. The group, organized in England and currently based at the Medical College in Kerala, India, seeks to promote academic and research achievements of scientists and researchers in different branches of science. The organization publishes a journal, *Recent Advances and Research Updates*, that will feature an article on Slawin, his work, and Baylor College of Medicine.

◆ **Gayle Slaughter, Ph.D.,** assistant dean for graduate education and associate professor of molecular and cellular biology at Baylor College of Medicine, has been named chair-elect of the Graduate Research Education and Training Group, sponsored by the American Association of Medical Colleges. The organization provides a national forum for professional development and the exchange of information and ideas related to biomedical graduate education and postdoctoral training. More than 300 members represent the leadership of more than 120 graduate schools offering degrees in biomedically related sciences.

◆ The president of the Murcia Regional Government in Spain presented a gold medal June 9 to **Francisco Fuentes, M.D.,** professor of medicine at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, to recognize his contributions to the prevention, treatment and understanding of heart disease. Fuentes, the Theodore R. and Maureen O'Driscoll-Levy Professor in Cardiology Research, specializes in general and preventive cardiology. His patients include numerous men and women who travel each year from Spain to the Texas Medical Center for cardiac care. A long-time educator and public health advocate, he currently is researching whether arteries are best unclogged by medicine alone or in tandem with surgical or catheter-based interventions for patients with diabetes and coronary artery disease. In addition, Fuentes leads the Houston Heart Health project, an extensive effort to assess specific cardiovascular disease risk factors in each of Houston's 88 neighborhoods.



◆ **C.S. Raman, Ph.D.,** assistant professor in the department of biochemistry and molecular biology and faculty member of the UT-Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, is one of 20 2002 Pew Scholars in the Biomedical Sciences announced nationally this summer by the Pew Charitable Trusts. The highly competitive program targets promising junior faculty at the nation's medical schools and research institutions, providing a total of $240,000 over four years. Raman's lab explores the role of nitric oxide, carbon monoxide and molecular oxygen – gaseous messengers in the body's signaling system governing cell behavior. Raman was lead author of a 1998 paper in the journal *Cell* that established the molecular basis for the first step in the chain – how nitric oxide synthases generate nitric oxide. His next target is how nitric oxide activates soluble guanylyl cyclase.



◆ **Fred Garrett, D.D.S.,** clinical associate professor in The University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston's orthodontics department, received the James E. Brophy American Association of Orthodontists Distinguished Service Award at the association's 102nd annual session in Philadelphia. The award is given annually to an individual who has made significant contributions to orthodontics and to the association and its members. Garrett has been with the orthodontics department since 1968.

◆ **Rosemary Quigley, J.D.,** assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy, has been selected from a national applicant pool to participate in one of 23 projects supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Quigley will be a member of a seminar titled "Justice, Equality, and the Challenge of Disability." The five-week program will be held at Sarah Lawrence College. The proceedings of the seminar will be made available to the American public in a National Public Radio production, co-sponsored by the American Philosophical Association and the Rock Ethics Institute at Pennsylvania State University.

◆ **Irma Gigli, M.D.,** associate director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a 222-year-old institution that recognizes creative and intellectual achievement in all scholarly fields and professions. Gigli, a dermatologist-immunologist and leading researcher of the role that complement proteins play in the body's immune system, also directs the Institute of Molecular Medicine Research Center for Immunology and Autoimmune Diseases. She and her late husband, Dr. Hans Müller-Eberhard, also an academy fellow, came to UT-Houston to launch the institute in 1995.



◆ **Bruce R. Parker, M.D.,** chief of Texas Children's Hospital's diagnostic imaging department, presided over the recent 45th Society of Pediatric Radiology annual meeting in Philadelphia. Parker, professor of radiology and pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, is president of the Society of Pediatric Radiology – a national organization dedicated to improving pediatric health care through excellence in radiology. At the conclusion of his term as president, Parker will serve a year as chairman of the society's board of directors.

◆ **Elizabeth Protas, Ph.D.,** associate dean and professor of physical therapy at the Texas Woman's University School of Physical Therapy in Houston, has been elected to the American College of Sports Medicine board of trustees. Her two-year term began June 2 and she represents the 12 regional chapters. Protas, who has taught at TWU for 16 years, served as executive director of the Texas American College of Sports Medicine chapter for three years and has been a national member for 16 years.



◆ **Rebecca K. Holmes, M.D.,** a postdoctoral fellow at Baylor College of Medicine who is training at Texas Children's Cancer Center, has received a Young Investigator Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology to study pediatric spinal cord tumors. The one-year grant of $35,000 will support her research on ependymoma, a malignant tumor of the spinal cord. Each year, the society selects researchers for the Young Investigator Awards based on the quality of clinical oncology research proposals submitted, as well as experience in the field. Other factors in the selection process include achievements in previous scientific training, potential for independent investigation and proven commitment to careers in clinical research. Holmes was one of 30 recipients receiving the award.

◆ **T. William Porter III** has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Texas Heart Institute. Porter, who is chairman and senior partner of Porter & Hedges, LLP, is nationally recognized for his expertise in corporate and securities law. Porter received his B.B.A. in finance from Southern Methodist University in 1963 and his L.L.B. from Duke University in 1966. For nearly 20 consecutive years he has been listed in "The Best Lawyers in America," corporate section, and in "Who's Who in American Law." Porter's comprehensive experience includes representation of publicly held companies in all phases of the petroleum industry, as well as manufacturing, mining, distribution, a



wide range of service companies, and financial and investment institutions. In addition to presenting numerous professional papers, he has provided guidance for several State Bar and American Bar Association committees on securities law, corporate law, proxy regulation and law firms.

◆ **Ronald Johnson, D.D.S.,** has been appointed executive vice president for strategic affairs for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. In this role, Johnson will be developing new initiatives for student and faculty recruitment and retention and combining basic science education for medical and dental students. Johnson has served as dean of the UT-Houston Dental Branch since 1996, and is only the fifth dean to lead the oldest dental school in the state, established in 1905. Johnson, whose new appointment took effect July 1, will act as interim dean of the Dental Branch until Sept. 1. At that time, another interim dean will be appointed while an international search for Johnson's successor gets under way.



◆ **Jessica Indrigo,** a Ph.D. candidate in molecular pathology at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, recenlty won the American Medical Writers Association Southwest Chapter's 2002 Scholarship for Biomedical Communication competition. Her essay, "CAbs: A Driving Force in Novel Therapeutics" received the highest scores from judges in criteria ranging from technical accuracy to argument structure. The scholarship includes a $500 award, a certificate of recognition, a complimentary one-year membership in AMWA, and an invitation to the chapter's annual career roundtables meeting.

◆ **Sally Nelson,** chief information officer, chief financial officer and executive vice president of Texas Children's Hospital, recently received the Award for Leadership from the Houston chapter of the Association for Women in Computing. The association provides opportunities for professional growth through networking and programs on technical and career-oriented topics.



◆ **Dr. Brendan H. L. Lee, M.D., Ph.D.,** associate professor in Baylor College of Medicine's department of molecular and human genetics, has been appointed by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute as an investigator in a program to improve the translation of basic science discoveries into enhanced treatments for patients. Lee was chosen from a pool of 138 nominees representing 119 institutions including medical schools, research institutes and schools of public health. He will receive up to $1 million per year to help fund his research, which focuses on the developmental and biochemical pathways that regulate mammalian tissue and organ development. These laboratory studies are linked with clinical research coordinated from the Texas Children's Hospital Skeletal Dysplasia Clinic.

◆ **Alan B. Lumsden, M.D.,** has been appointed professor and chief of the division of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy at the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. Lumsden and his research team, including Changyi Chen, M.D., and Peter H. Lin, M.D., come to Baylor from Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. While at Emory, Lumsden was head of general vascular surgery and director of the Emory Endovascular Training Center and the Emory Venous Clinic. He specializes in minimally invasive therapy and stent graft treatment for aortic aneurysms and vascular disease. Lumsden has received more than $1.8 million in support for his research, and his research team currently holds four grants from the National Institutes of Health. His work has resulted in more than 200 scientific articles, abstracts, books, book chapters and more than 100 presentations.

◆ **Kathryn Livesay** has been named food and beverage coordinator for the Texas Medical Center. In this role, she will act as the liaison between the Texas Medical Center and the food operators at the new John P. McGovern Texas Medical Center Commons building, opening next month, and at the Texas Medical Center's 2450 Holcombe Blvd. facility. In addition, she supervises operations at the Commons building, including the building's sixth floor retail shops.



Livesay earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies, specializing in interpersonal communication, from The University of Texas at Austin, where she minored in Spanish and business foundations. Prior to joining the Texas Medical Center, she worked in technical sales in Austin.

◆ **Lloyd H. Michael, Ph.D.,** Baylor College of Medicine professor of medicine, has been named senior associate dean by the college's board of trustees. He holds joint appointments in the departments of surgery and physiology & molecular biophysics, and has served as assistant dean and associate dean for admissions. He also directs the DeBakey Heart Center Core Animal Laboratories. Michael is chair-elect of the Association of American Medical Colleges' Baccalaureate/M.D. Group, and was appointed as council member to develop and administer the Joint Admission Medical Program, legislated by the state of Texas, to provide undergraduate and medical school opportunities for economically disadvantaged students.

◆ **The Methodist DeBakey Heart Center** received an award for "Cardiovascular and Stroke Risk Reduction – Secondary Prevention Program" from the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, part of the Texas Department of Health, in recognition of the center's commitment to the prevention of cardiovascular disease through the implementation of an innovative and effective program. The recognition was awarded during the CVD and Stroke Summit 2002, June 19 in San Antonio.

◆ **Janet Maxian,** a registered nurse at Texas Children's Hospital, and **Betsy Sanford,** audiologist and manager of the Texas Children's audiology department, presented "Sedation of Children Undergoing Auditory Brainstem Response audiometry" at the American Academy of Audiology convention. The academy is the world's largest professional organization of audiologists.

◆ Texas Woman's University health care administration student **Bella Belleza-Bascon** of Houston is one of 11 Abbott Scholarship recipients nationwide for 2002–2003. Each year, the Abbott Fellowship Program, funded by Abbott Laboratories, recognizes outstanding students in health administration from 11 of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration's full graduate member programs. The scholarship is awarded to exceptional second-year graduate students and provides $5,000 in financial support.

◆ **Gretchen Gemeinhardt, Ph.D.,** assistant health care administration professor at Texas Woman's University's Institute of Health Sciences in Houston, has been appointed to the 2002 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. As an examiner, Gemeinhardt is responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submitted for the award. The board is composed about 400 leading experts selected from industry, professional and trade organizations, education and health care organizations, and government.

◆ The American Heart Association's Houston Division has named two individuals to leadership positions for 2002–2003.

Joseph Swafford, M.D., associate professor of cardiology, director of clinical cardiology, and director of the noninvasive laboratory at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, is the division's new president. Swafford has been an active member of the division's board of directors for six years. He also is a past recipient of the heart association's Distinguished Service Award.



Jim Postl, president and CEO of Pennzoil-Quaker State Company, has been named chairman of the association's board of directors. Postl has been an active participant and corporate donor for the American Heart Walk since 1999, the same year Pennzoil-Quaker State Company became the presenting sponsor of the Houston Heart Walk. Hundreds of Pennzoil Quaker-State Company employees participate in the downtown walk each year.



◆ **P. Syamasundar Rao, M.D.,** has joined The University of Texas Medical School at Houston as the school's new director for the pediatric cardiology division. A pioneer in using catheter-directed interventional procedures to treat heart problems in children, Rao is charged with developing a pediatric cardiology program. Rao came to UT-Houston from the division of pediatric cardiology at St. Louis University School of Medicine. He completed his medical degree in India, and his pediatric cardiology training at Stanford University, Case-Western Reserve University, and the University of California at Los Angeles.



◆ **Lisa Wang, M.D.,** assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, has received a $500,000 award for cancer research. The Clinical Scientist Development Award is presented by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to support investigators as they begin their careers as independent clinical researchers. Wang, a researcher at Texas Children's Cancer Center, is studying Rothmund-Thomson syndrome, a rare, inherited chromosomal disorder. Her research will include an investigation of rare cancer predisposition syndromes to gain insight into the molecular basis of cancers.