A Message from UT Southwestern Medical Center
President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

I am continuously inspired by the accomplishments of our UT Southwestern community of faculty, students, and alumni. It is widely known that we have some of the country’s brightest students in our schools, that our faculty is world class, and that our alumni have gone on to become renowned leaders in their medical and scientific fields. But there is something more—a quest for excellence that propels our alumni, faculty, and students to push boundaries and never accept just being “good enough.”

The 18th-century writer and poet Oliver Goldsmith said, “To aim at excellence, our reputation, and friends, and all must be ventured; to aim at the average we run no risk and provide little service.” It’s an attitude we embrace at UT Southwestern. We must never rest on our laurels. The next scientific breakthrough…a new treatment…a commitment to serving others…all can be achieved only by constantly striving to do it better next time.

Since my last message to you in October, I am still beaming over the news that Dr. Bruce Beutler has become UT Southwestern’s fifth faculty member to win the Nobel Prize. No other medical center in the world can make that claim, and in this issue of Alumni eNews, it is a pleasure to provide you with a firsthand account of Dr. Beutler’s experience in Stockholm. Amidst all of the acclaim, Dr. Beutler remains ever humble and simply wants to get back to work at our new Center for the Genetics of Host Defense.
The pursuit of excellence is an overarching theme in this issue. You’ll also read about Dr. Norman Thagard, an alumnus of UT Southwestern Medical School who went on to become the first American astronaut to travel with Russian cosmonauts to the Mir Space Station. You’ll learn about five truly inspiring medical students here at UT Southwestern whom we have dubbed “the ones to watch;” not just because of their academic accomplishments, but because of their remarkable commitment to service. And our faculty profile of Dr. Biff Palmer is a testament to the importance of hard work and tenacity in reaching the loftiest goals.

Thank you for being part of UT Southwestern’s commitment to excellence. Your success and encouragement are the reason why this Medical Center continues to flourish. I hope you are as moved by these stories as I am, and that the achievements inspiring our next edition will be your own.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.

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Dr. Bruce Beutler Awarded 2011 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

By Betsy Lewis

Dr. Bruce A. Beutler, Professor and Director of UT Southwestern’s new Center for the Genetics of Host Defense, accepted the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on December 10, 2011, in Stockholm, Sweden.

“I want to start this talk with an acknowledgement of my father, because he was a great teacher of mine,” said Dr. Beutler at the outset of his Nobel acceptance speech.

Among the many things he taught me was to work on things that are very important – and to know what’s important. And he advised me to go to medical school to get a broad view of human pathology and to understand what the real stumbling blocks are in biomedicine, and what we don’t understand about how a whole organism functions.”

Dr. Beutler’s ties to UT Southwestern were formed early in his career. He did his internship in the Department of Internal Medicine and his residency in Neurology; in 1986, he became one of the Medical Center’s first Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators, as well as an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine.

From 1993 to 1998, he searched for a receptor capable of binding the bacterial product called lipopolysaccharide (LPS), which can cause life-threatening septic shock. These early studies indeed led to the identification of Toll-like receptors as sensors that act like sentinels to alert the host immune system when infection is present. By 1998, he and his colleagues had discovered that mice resistant to LPS had a mutation in a gene that was quite similar to the Toll gene in the fruit fly, the organism studied by Dr. Jules Hoffman of Strasbourg University Institut de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire in France.

Their findings showed that mammals and fruit flies use similar molecules to activate innate immunity when encountering pathogenic microorganisms. The discoveries triggered an explosion of research in innate immunity. About a dozen different Toll-like receptors have now been identified in humans and mice.

“It’s important that we understand exactly how immunity operates, and there were some profound mysteries about immunity that persisted until just very recently,” Dr. Beutler said during his Nobel acceptance speech.

In 2000, Dr. Beutler left UT Southwestern to join the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, where his father was on the faculty. Then, last September, he returned to the place where his research originally took root.

“With the new Center for the Genetics of Host Defense, I’m looking forward to continuing the work that we started so many years ago at UT Southwestern,” Dr. Beutler said.

The return to Dallas and the Nobel Prize is not an end, but rather the next step in a career dedicated to advancing medicine and unlocking the mysteries of science. And going forward, UT Southwestern’s brand new Center will have an unexpected celebrity cachet.

“It is still a little bit hard for me to believe,” said Dr. Beutler.

Dr. Beutler shared half the prize with Dr. Hoffman. The other half went to the late Dr. Ralph M. Steinman of Rockefeller University in New York for his discovery of the dendritic cell and its role in adaptive immunity.

UT Southwestern faculty members have won five Nobel Prizes since 1985: Dr. Michael Brown and Dr. Joseph Goldstein (1985), Dr. Johann Deisenhofer (1988), and Dr. Alfred Gilman (1994) preceded Dr. Beutler in being honored by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet.

“This institution has a commitment to excellence across our mission of research, education, and patient care,” said UT Southwestern President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D. “It says something about UT Southwestern that Bruce joins the ranks as our fifth member of the faculty to receive this highest honor.”
ask any child what he wants to be when he grows up and you'll hear a list of careers that are often broad in scope and heroic in nature—policeman, fireman, astronaut, doctor, teacher. Children don't limit themselves to aspiring to just one, until reality sets in later that doing one thing really well is good enough.

When Norman Thagard was a kid, he, too, had a list of aspirations—electrical engineer, fighter pilot, doctor, astronaut. But he didn't receive the requisite pat on the head, followed by the well-meaning but often insincere “you can be all of these things if you work hard enough.” People who knew him genuinely believed that Norm Thagard would indeed become all of these things, and with a fierce determination and a bit of serendipity, he did.

Dr. Thagard flew 163 combat missions as a Marine Corps fighter pilot in Vietnam and earned advanced degrees in engineering, medicine, and business administration over a span of 40 years. But it was his celebrated career as a NASA astronaut and scientist that led to his defining moment: Dr. Thagard was the first American to launch into space on a Russian rocket. He then lived on the International Space Station Mir for four months, speaking only Russian. Norman Thagard was, effectively, the first American cosmonaut.

“You can want all of those things, but I don’t know how you’d plot out a path that leads to it,” Dr. Thagard said. “There are obviously some events beyond your control that shape that path, and that certainly happened to me.”

After earning an engineering science degree from Florida State University in 1965, Dr. Thagard went straight into graduate school for an M.S. in the same field. Marine Corps flight training began just two days after defending his thesis. Then, three weeks after completing his tour in the Marine Corps, he entered Florida State’s doctoral program in engineering science, but the university terminated the program after Dr. Thagard had completed five quarters of Ph.D. coursework. That event propelled him to switch professions from engineering to medicine.

At age 30, he entered medical school at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

On one day during his fourth year at UT Southwestern, his wife told him she’d heard on the radio that NASA was taking applications for astronauts; she sent off for the application before he even returned home from school that day. After sundry tests and interviews, the announcement came in January 1978.

He said: “There were 8,079 applicants and they took 35, so the odds were not looking good. My wife had friends over, and we were watching the news. The newscaster mentioned that on Monday morning, NASA was going to announce the first new group of astronauts in over 10 years. We were pretty sure they had already told the people who had been selected, and I hadn’t heard anything. Monday morning, I was at the outpatient clinic—that was the rotation I was doing—and before we started seeing patients, we had a meeting. So we’re in the conference room, and the phone rings and it’s for me. I pick it up and it’s George Abbey, Director of Flight Operations at Johnson Space Center. George said, ‘I was calling to see if you were still interested in the astronaut position’.”

Dr. Thagard’s first flight was the 1983 Challenger mission in which Sally Ride became the first American woman to fly in space. He said: “As an M.D., I was tapped for the mission to study space motion sickness. I was probably a good choice because I was the sickest one on board. On the last day of the mission, some of my crewmates asked me if I’d ever been motion sick. Even though I had been, they didn’t know it, because I’d done my job anyway. That’s the Marine way. You do your job—it doesn’t matter what you feel like.”

Dr. Thagard flew five space shuttle missions. One deployed the Magellan probe, which mapped the surface of the planet Venus by radar. One deployed the Magellan probe, which mapped the surface of the planet Venus by radar.
and the community about the infection, he spent two years performing basic science research in HBV under the direction of Dr. William M. Lee, a faculty member at UT Southwestern. That experience opened his eyes to the startling reality that approximately 50 percent of the 2.2 million Americans with chronic HBV are refugee immigrants. About 65 percent of those HBV-infected immigrants are unaware of their viral disease until they have often developed liver cirrhosis and/or liver cancer. These facts compelled Doan to start the DFW Hepatitis B Free Project using early financial support from Dr. Lee and proceeds from Boba tea sales. Doan also has applied to numerous organizations for grant funding. The DFW Hepatitis B Free Project has made some major accomplishments during its short existence. To date, 342 people have received services. Of those, 33 (10%) were found to have chronic HBV infection and were subsequently linked to medical care. The project has received funding and a Certificate of Recognition from Commissioner Dr. David Lakey of the Texas Department of State Health Services and become part of the Centers for Disease Control Taskforce on Hepatitis B.

Doan has implemented additional strategies to sustain and expand the project further. There are now 21 project officers and additional medical student recruits being added each year. A second Viral Hepatitis Awareness Lecture Series to educate the UT Southwestern community is planned for April 2012. Though initially focusing exclusively on HBV in the Asian-American community, those at risk for or already infected with chronic hepatitis C and other high-risk groups such as Africans have recently been included in the project's services for upcoming screening events.

“I am thankful for all of my opportunities in America, including attending medical school at UT Southwestern,” Doan said. “So I work hard to give a little back to the community because I consider myself a more fortunate individual than many.”

Kym Gonzalez tackles childhood obesity one family at a time

As a Dallas native, Kym Gonzalez witnessed firsthand the astonishing increase in childhood obesity while working extensively with the Latino community since high school. She saw an unmet need to educate a largely underserved community on improving nutrition and exercise, so Kym decided to start a program that she hoped might help reverse the alarming trend of obesity.

In collaboration with the Irving YMCA and Irving Independent School District, “Families in Training for Health: FIT for Health” came to fruition during Kym’s first year of medical school. With faculty assistance from Dr. Nora Gimpel, Kym and third-year medical student Suretha Elango started the family-based, medical student-led childhood obesity program that has grown to over 40 medical and allied health student volunteers. The 25-member leadership board, composed entirely of first-year medical students, is mentored by Kym and another fourth-year medical student, Emily Smithe, to ensure the program will carry on when they leave UT Southwestern.

The eight-week “FIT for Health” program is delivered twice a year in both English and Spanish at the Irving YMCA. Student volunteers serve as facilitators for the weekly classes, which focus on a healthy lifestyle and the importance of incorporating small changes that are sustainable. Families learn how to read nutrition labels, reduce screen time, and make healthy food substitutions. The entire family also receives a free YMCA membership throughout the duration of the program and for six months after completion. According to Kym, “There have been eight ‘FIT for Health’ sessions that have assisted over 100 families.”

Kym has taken the lead on developing a research aspect of the program to measure its effectiveness. She is looking at the behavioral changes of the participants, and all of the studies have shown good trends in improving nutrition and physical activity in both children and their parents. Kym has recently presented the study’s initial findings at several conferences, including the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibit, where she was presented with the Academy’s Young Investigator’s award for her research.

Tommy Heyne provides healing around the globe

Tommy Heyne’s impact on improving health care can be felt around the world, and he hasn’t even finished medical school yet.

“A number of people will do experiences abroad and they’ll become more compassionate, more willing to serve the underserved or put things in perspective as far as discrepancies in health care,” Tommy said. “For me, though, this is what I want to do with my life. If you asked me where I’m going to be in 10 years, I’d say hopefully starting a hospital, maybe a school.”

While an undergraduate at the University of Dallas, Tommy spent a semester studying in Rome, where he volunteered at a soup kitchen run by Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity. His passion for international service was further stoked during five trips to Monterrey, Mexico to assist at a school and clinic for the poor. In Dallas, he participated in the Parkland Collegiate Fellows program and helped out at Children’s Medical Center.

Tommy followed a nontraditional path to medical school by earning a Master of Studies in Theology at Oxford. His research there focused on ancient African-Christian attitudes toward medicine and healing. In 2007, Tommy was accepted for a nine-month Fulbright Fellowship in

Doan’s project strives to raise awareness and reduce the prevalence of unrecognized chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and susceptibility.

Kym helps families learn how to read nutrition labels, reduce screen time, and make healthy food substitutions.
Tommy Heyne exemplifies UT Southwestern’s commitment to excellence, dedication to discovery, and service to community.

Spain to study Andalucian medicine as a prototype of peaceful “convivencia” among medieval Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Right before starting medical school, he volunteered at a clinic in Laredo, Mexico and an orphanage in the Palestinian West Bank.

Once at UT Southwestern, Tommy helped transform the Global Health Interest Group by bringing speakers to campus, planning a pre-clinical elective, and organizing a photo exhibit and auction. He consistently spends breaks from school outside the United States and concentrates on indigent primary care settings—Peru, Honduras, the Mexican border, and post-earthquake Haiti. He is planning trips to India and Ethiopia. As president of the UT Southwestern chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, Tommy also assists Project Remedy’s efforts to send donated medical supplies to developing nations.

Tommy’s achievements won him the 2011 Stehberg Teacher Award, “which is an award faculty members can receive only one time during their tenure.

Dr. Palmer attributes his skills as an outstanding educator to the many mentors he has had. He has the opportunity of interacting with at UT Southwestern. In particular, he credits Dr. Donald Seldin as a source for his passion for renal physiology. In addition, he describes Dr. Daniel Foster as a role model and mentor who exhibits an enthusiasm for teaching and a zeal for living life to its fullest.

Outside of his professional accomplishments, Dr. Palmer maintained a rigorous training schedule to prepare for his mountaineering expeditions. Of all of the summits he has reached, he described Mount Everest as the most difficult, both mentally and physically. After an initial failed attempt several years ago, Dr. Palmer honed his focus and desire to conquer the mountain and used lessons learned through his perseverance through medical school to apply toward his dedication to make a future successful attempt. His quest to complete the world’s seven highest summits came to fruition in May 2011, after he reached the summit of Mount Everest.

Dr. Palmer has countless memories of his time in the mountains; his most unforgettable experience came after reaching the summit of Carstensz Pyramid in Indonesia. He developed chills, a fever, and felt abnormally fatigued upon his arrival in Texas. After a few days of worsening symptoms, he discovered he had contracted malaria. "I experienced the doctor’s ‘invincibility complex’ and didn’t think I could ever get sick, so I stopped taking my anti-malarial medication prematurely, a fallacy I will never forget!"

Now that Dr. Palmer’s 10-year excursion has come to a conclusion, he reflects, “It was an exhausting, arduous journey, but once I reached the final summit, it was an indescribable feeling that made me forget about all the sacrifices that I made to get there.”

Dr. Palmer’s quest to complete the world’s seven highest summits came to fruition in May 2011, after he reached the summit of Mount Everest.

Faculty Profile: Biff Palmer, M.D.

By Casey Poe

Dr. Biff Palmer, Professor of Internal Medicine, is an award-winning professor and is consistently voted one of the best physicians in Dallas. Uniquely, he is also an avid and accomplished mountaineer.

Dr. Palmer’s career aspirations early on were to attend medical school at UT Southwestern, culminating with an appointment as a Professor of Internal Medicine. As a testament to his vision and determination to achieve his goal, his senior yearbook photo from medical school pictures him standing in front of a medical student lecture room with a pointer as if delivering Internal Medicine Grand Rounds.

While an undergraduate at Baylor, Dr. Palmer would enjoy weekend drives from Waco to marvel and dream of being a student at the UT Southwestern campus. He was delighted to be accepted into medical school at UT Southwestern and felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to fulfill his lifelong dream to attend such a world-class institution.

Upon graduating from medical school in 1981, Dr. Palmer joined the Army, completing his internship and residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. After satisfying his commitment, achieving the rank of Major, Dr. Palmer returned to UT Southwestern to complete a Clinical Fellowship with the Division of Nephrology at Parkland Memorial Hospital and Dallas VA Medical Center. His aspirations were further achieved when he was afforded the opportunity to join the ranks of the faculty in 1989. Dr. Palmer feels very fortunate to have spent almost his entire career at UT Southwestern.

Dr. Palmer has many fond memories of experiences shared with both students and faculty throughout his tenure at UT Southwestern. He has been the recipient of many Outstanding Teacher awards, as well as a winner of the prestigious Socrates Award for clinical teaching; however, Dr. Palmer said, “The teaching award I am most proud of being honored with is the Parkland Memorial Hospital Internal Medicine Housestaff Outstanding Teacher Award,” which is an award faculty members can receive only one time during their tenure.

Dr. Palmer's quest to complete the world’s seven highest summits came to fruition in May 2011, after he reached the summit of Mount Everest.

Evans Ross gives dignity to the dying

While volunteering with Memorial Hermann Hospital’s No One Dies Alone (NODA) program in Houston, Evan Ross discovered he had a passion for care giving, eventually leading him to medical school. After his initial experience with NODA, Evan felt so compelled to “accompany patients throughout the last moments of their lives” that he and a few other students started a program at Parkland during his first year of medical school. “Once we have reached the limits of the science of medicine, it becomes about the art of medicine and the human touch,” Evan said.

Recently, Evan won first prize for a creative writing competition held by the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Visit our web site at http://www.utsouthwestern.edu/life-at/features/no-one-dies-alone.html to read Evan’s winning essay.

Evan Ross, second-year medical student at UT Southwestern.
In Memoriam

Medical School
James R. Fish, M.D. ’47
Frank K. Buster, M.D. ’49
Ruth Little Darnell, M.D. ’49
George M. Boswell, Jr., M.D. ’50
Van Gene Kaden, M.D. ’51
John T. Binion, M.D. ’52
Ben H. White, M.D. ’52
James A. Fisher, Jr., M.D. ’54
Michael J. “Mike” Keglovits, M.D. ’54
William L. Watson, M.D. ’55
Mark E. Huff, Jr., M.D. ’58
Eugene Ray Todd, M.D. ’58
Joanne Paula Ames Wilcox, M.D. ’61
Bill R. Carter, M.D. ’64
Kenneth W. Malmquist, M.D. ’64
Lewis M. Purnell, M.D. ’82

Housestaff
Susan Elaine Hotz, M.D. (Neurology)
William Douglas Pitcher, M.D. (Internal Medicine)
H.C. Teng, M.D. (Internal Medicine)
Galen B. Toews, M.D. (Internal Medicine)

School of Health Professions
Patty Sue Harrison Newton ’78
Margie Taylor Nabors ’86
Ann Flores Minnis ’98

Faculty
Dr. Adolph Hartung Giesecke, Jr. passed away quietly at home on December 24, 2011. He led a remarkable career that spanned almost 52 years of service to UT Southwestern Medical Center. It was clear in observing Dr. Giesecke’s activities that he wanted to leave a legacy of improving the local, state, national, and international perceptions of UT Southwestern and, more specifically, the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, which he loved with all of his heart.

In an effort to recognize in perpetuity the extraordinary service that he provided to UT Southwestern’s Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management throughout the course of his professional life, we will establish a Steering Committee to assist in raising funds for an endowment in recognition of his remarkable career. In lieu of flowers or other contributions, the family requests that you consider making a contribution to support the A.H. “Buddy” Giesecke, Jr., M.D. Fund in Anesthesiology. These memorial contributions may be directed to: UT Southwestern PO Box 910888 Dallas, TX 75391-0888 or online at www.utsouthwestern.edu/donatenow

Dr. Michael P. Wainscott passed away on February 10, 2012. After he graduated from Texas Tech Medical School in 1981, Dr. Wainscott joined the first class at R.E. Thompson General Hospital in Emergency Medicine and completed his residency. In 1989, Dr. Wainscott joined the faculty of UT Southwestern and was a major force in the formation of the EM Residency Program. He took over as Program Director of the EM Residency Program at UT Southwestern and has held that position ever since. There are over 200 Emergency Medicine doctors who have graduated from this program who are saving lives and changing lives every day.

Medicine was Dr. Wainscott’s driving force and passion in life; it came from his soul. He always enjoyed clinical and practical teaching, patient care, administration of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and academic writing. Dr. Wainscott fulfilled a need to be actively involved in patient care, keeping his skills current by working night shifts in the Emergency Room on a regular basis.

The Michael P. Wainscott, M.D. Fund in Emergency Medicine has been established in Dr. Wainscott’s memory. Memorial contributions may be directed to UT Southwestern PO Box 910888 Dallas, TX 75391-0888 or online at www.utsouthwestern.edu/donatenow

Dr. William Laka Watson, Jr., a respected Waco otolaryngologist who gave generously to further the teaching efforts at UT Southwestern Medical Center and established a prominent annual award to recognize distinguished clinicians, died January 19, 2012.

Dr. Watson, a Dallas native and 1955 graduate of UT Southwestern Medical School, served as an Air Force flight surgeon at the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio. He completed his residency training in otolaryngology at the Dallas Veteran Affairs Medical Center in 1965, then moved to Waco, where he established a successful medical practice in otolaryngology before retiring in 1992.

Dr. Watson along with his wife, Patricia, provided a generous gift in 2009 to establish the Patricia and William L. Watson Jr., M.D., Award for Excellence in Clinical Medicine, recognizing annually a UT Southwestern clinician whose work exemplifies a commitment to outstanding patient care and advancement of clinical innovation. The Watson Award is announced each year in the fall, with its recipient recognized in a ceremony held in conjunction with an annual invited lecture by an eminent medical leader that focuses on an important topic of clinical care delivery.

The couple also gave an earlier gift to establish the William L. Watson, M.D., and Patricia Watson Southwest-ern Academy of Teachers Fund in 2008 in support of the UT Southwestern Academy of Teachers. The academy, established in 2006, is made up of senior faculty from UT Southwestern Medical School, UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and UT Southwestern School of Health Professions who are especially influential in fostering excellence and serving as role models for younger faculty members.
We are pleased to present this special printed version of the April 2012 UT Southwestern Medical School Alumni Newsletter. To stay in the know, please send your current email address to alumni@utsouthwestern.edu so you can receive our Alumni E-Newsletter via email.

Class Notes

MEDICAL SCHOOL


Class of 1964: Doug Puryear, M.D., has just published his second book, *Your Life Can Be Better: Using Strategies for Adult ADD/ADHD*. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his wife, Martha, is still practicing psychiatry, and is enjoying fly fishing, prison ministry, travel, guitar, and eight grandchildren.

Class of 1971: Robert W. Haley, M.D., received the Dallas County Medical Society’s (DCMS) Charles Max Cole, M.D., Leadership Award, which recognizes a DCMS member for outstanding service to the profession of medicine and to the community.

Class of 1972: W. Phil Evans, M.D., Director of the UT Southwestern Center for Breast Care, was inducted as the national president of the American Cancer Society and will serve for the next year as a leader and primary volunteer spokesman on medical issues.

Class of 1978: Donald R. Cochran, M.D., decided to pursue a new specialty after he began reading about hospice a few months after his retirement from 30 years of anesthesia practice in January 2010. He returned to UT Southwestern in July 2011 for a one-year fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He began exactly 30 years after he completed his anesthesiology residency at Parkland. Cochran said, “I felt very strange sitting in the Parkland Internship orientation with all the recent graduates. I completed my first residency before most of them were born.”

Class of 1982: Carlin S. Long, M.D., was recently named the recipient of the Kevin P. Kauffman Endowed Chair of Cardiology at Denver Health Medical Center. This was the largest single gift to the Denver Health Foundation in its history.

Class of 1986: Tom Starkey, M.D., Lieutenant Colonel, Army Medical Corps, is serving as Chief of Surgery for Task Force 10 Med Bastion Hospital at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Bastion is a NATO Alliance Hospital serving Regional Command Southwest, and is the busiest Military Hospital in Afghanistan.

Class of 1984: James D. Luecke, M.D., was awarded the Texas Rural Health Association’s (TRHA) 2011 Rural Health Champion Award. TRHA’s Champion Award is presented annually to a person who has made a significant difference in improving the health of rural Texans.

Class of 1987: Richard W. Snyder, II, M.D., was installed as the 129th President of the Dallas County Medical Society on January 19, 2012.

Class of 1988: Dr. Peter A. McCullough, M.D., M.P.H., recently accepted the position of Chief Academic and Scientific Officer of the St. John Providence Health System in Detroit, Michigan, which is part of the Ascension Health national chain of community hospitals. In this role, Dr. McCullough oversees graduate medical education and research at five major hospitals involving over 600 medical students, residents, and fellows, and leads 18 individual research centers.

Class of 1992: Wendy J. Pomerantz, M.D., was promoted to Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, University of Cincinnati. She was also the recipient of the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Community Advocacy Award.

Class of 1996: George N. Carayannopoulos, M.D., recently moved from New York back to Texas, got married, and started a new job in October 2011 as Division Chief of Cardiac Electrophysiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.


Class of 2002: Jarett D. Berry, M.D., received the Baylor Alumni Association’s Herbert H. Reynolds Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which is presented annually to Baylor alumni under 40 who have distinguished themselves in their fields early in their careers.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Class of 2007: Branden J. Hall, Study Director at Nelson Laboratories in Salt Lake City, Utah, became certified as a Registered Microbiologist in Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Microbiology by the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists (NRCM).

Tell Us What’s New

Do you have a new position or practice? A special project or announcement? Have you moved? Is your family growing? Let your fellow alumni know “What’s New” by emailing alumni@utsouthwestern.edu.