

## TAA IS ON THE MOVE!



The Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs (TAA) moved to a new building!

Our new mailing address is Faculty Center Tower, 1400 Pressler, Ste. FCT7.5000, Houston, TX 77030. Our new interoffice mailbox number is Unit 1427. All mail sent to our old address and mailbox number will be forwarded to the new location.

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### AUGUST 2008

#### Special points of interest:

\* TAA OPEN HOUSE scheduled  
09/25/2008, 11 AM—1 PM, FCT7.5000.  
Come join us!

## DISCOVER SYSTEM MILESTONES

 The Department of Trainee & Alumni Affairs (TAA) celebrates our 1st Year Anniversary for launching the DISCOVER On-line Application System for Educational Trainees.

The DISCOVER Project Team has officially completed Phase I of the project which enables clinical and research applicants to submit the application, required documents and

letters of recommendation electronically in the web-based system.

To date, over 800 candidates have applied for educational appointment to M. D. Anderson Cancer Center via the DISCOVER System. TAA has completed 90% roll out for clinical and research educational appointments and anticipates completion of these populations by Fall 2008. As we continue to roll out the system to our other educational populations, TAA

will no longer accept recommendations for appointment via the paper form.

Phase II of the DISCOVER Project is currently under way, which includes developing the Observer/Short Term Observer appointment module as well as roll out to our other educational populations. In addition, the project team continues to enhance the system to meet the

EDUCATIONAL CANDIDATES APPLY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD VIA THE DISCOVER SYSTEM!



● Represents educational applicants country of citizenship [07/2008].

## OBSERVER PROGRAM UPDATES

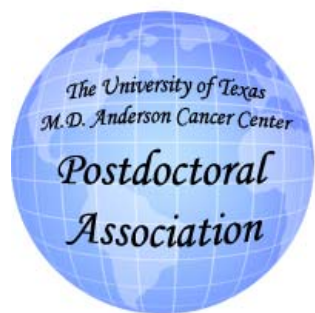
### Effective September 1, 2008:

- Jana Mills, MBA, Program Manager, will assume responsibility for the observer program initiatives going forward. Her contact information is 713-563-4321 or [jmills@mdanderson.org](mailto:jmills@mdanderson.org).
- As part of the ongoing effort to further improve the observer program and at the request of many departments, eligibility criteria have been created and will become effective September 1, 2008. Our goal is to ensure that both the trainee and the host department benefit from the observer experience through an exchange of ideas and educational collaboration. See our website for more information: [TAA Observer Eligibility Criteria Link](#).

### What to expect this Fall 2008:

- Evaluation tools such as an online exit survey will be sent out to observers in early Fall 2008.
- Faculty/Administrative/Observer focus groups will be established to collect survey data as it relates to the hosting department and overall observer experience.
- Observer and short-term observer titles will be integrated into the online application system (DISCOVER) by Fall 2008. Additional information regarding training sessions is forthcoming.

## M. D. ANDERSON POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION



The M. D. Anderson Postdoctoral Association (PDA) has worked actively to bring seminars on topics of importance, such as external sources of funding, international visa issues, and alternative careers in science, to postdoctoral fellows and other trainees. This year, the Postdoctoral Association Executive Committee (PDAEC) has continued to grow while engaging postdoctoral fellows with an interest in developing leadership, networking, and management skills.

The PDAEC's efforts are supported by the Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs (TAA) as well as Academic Affairs. In recent months, PDAEC members, with staff from TAA, had the opportunity to visit postdoctoral fellows at Science Park in Smithville, Texas.

Postdoctoral colleagues in the department of Carcinogenesis provided a warm welcome and showed off their impressive facilities. The visit included a comprehensive tour of the Michale E. Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research in Bastrop.

As an organization, the PDA will continue to bring topics of interest and address issues that most concern the postdoctoral population. Dr. Hui Zhao, PDAEC International subcommittee chair, recently submitted a proposal for the assessment and initiation of a Responsible Conduct Research Program for postdoctoral fellows at M. D. Anderson. Many PDAEC members also have the challenging and exciting task of preparing for next year's National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) annual meeting which will be held at M. D. Anderson in March 2009. Other local host institutions include UTHSC-H and Baylor College of Medicine. The NPA will bring together postdoctoral leadership and postdoctoral advocates from all over North America. The PDA is also engaged in service to the community through the M. D. Anderson Ambassador program and the M. D. Anderson Blood Center.

If you have any questions or wish to be part of the PDAEC, please contact Ivone Bruno, PDAEC chair, at [ibruno@mdanderson.org](mailto:ibruno@mdanderson.org).

Trainees are invited to participate in these upcoming PDA-sponsored seminars and events:

### **Intellectual Property Law, Professor Greg R. Vetter, University of Houston Law Center**

08-26-2008, 12 PM - 1 PM, SBC Auditorium

### **PDA Kick-Off Event featuring Stephen P. Tomasovic, Ph.D., Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**

09-16-2008, 12 PM – 1 PM, Hickey Auditorium

### **South Campus Event featuring Dr. Ellen Vitetta, Ph.D., M.D., Director of Cancer Immunobiology Center, UT Southwestern Medical School**

10- 22-2008, 4 PM – 5 PM, South Campus I Auditorium

### **Transition from Postdoc to Faculty**

#### **Panelists: Dr. Lorraine Reitzel, Dr. Prahlad Ram, and Dr. Carol Etzel (2008 Mentor Award recipient)**

11-11-2008, 12 PM - 1 PM, Hickey Auditorium

### **PDAEC Members:**

Chair- *Ivone Bruno*

Events-*Melissa Muller*

International- *Hui Zhao*

Mentor Award-*Michelle Hildebrandt, Laura Gumbiner-Russo*

Policy-*Ying Ma*

Publicity-*Nahum Puebla Osorio, Mala Pande*

Service-*Liesl Nel-Themaat*

Speakers-*Xia Tao*

South Campus-*Noor Mo Khaskhely*

Secretary-Open Position

PDAEC Liaison-*Susan Mayelzadeh*

NPA Liaison – *Tracy Costello*

Ex-Officio members- *Martha Skender, Carolyn Goebel, Alma Hernandez*

## Student & Alumni Affairs

### Trainee of the Quarter Winners Announced

Cycle December 2007 – February 2008

The Department of Trainee and Alumni Affairs recently announced the four recipients of the Trainee of the Quarter award for postgraduate trainees. The winners were recognized along with their mentors at the recent Trainee Research Day event. The following are the first recipients of this new award. Awards in the next two cycles will be announced in the Fall 2009.

<b>Teris Minsue Chen, M.D.</b> Fellow, Advanced Surgical Dermatology Mentor: Tri H. Nguyen, M.D.	<b>John W. Moroney, M.D.</b> Fellow, Gynecologic Oncology Mentor: Diane Bodurka, M.D.	<b>Elizabeth Mittendorf, M.D.</b> Fellow, Surgical Oncology Mentor: Kelly Hunt, M.D.	<b>Tracy Costello, Ph.D.</b> Postdoctoral Fellow, Health Disparities Research Mentor: David W. Wetter, Ph.D.
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### Trainee Research Day Winners Announced, May 23, 2008

The M. D. Anderson Alumni and Faculty Association hosted its annual Trainee Research Day event on Friday, May 23. Nearly 130 abstracts were submitted in the abstract and poster competitions for prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1000. 38 judges participated, including 9 judges from Baylor College of Medicine, The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, and The University of Texas Institute of Molecular Medicine. The following are the winners for this year.

#### POSTER AWARDS:

##### POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

###### AMGEN Award in Basic Science Research

Marzenna Blonska, Mentor: Xin Lin, Ph.D.

Claudio Tatsui, Mentor: Frederick Lang, Jr., M.D.

###### Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/Translational Research

Yaqing Wang, Mentor: William K. Plunkett, Jr., Ph.D.

Lauren M. Averett Byers, Mentor: John Victor Heymach,  
M.D., Ph.D.

###### Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Award in Population/ Patient Oriented Research

Shannon Westin, Mentor: Diane C. Bodurka, M.D.

Michelle Hildebrandt, Mentor: Xifeng Wang, M.D., Ph.D.

##### GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

###### Alumni and Faculty Association Award in Basic Science Research

Joseph H. Taube, Mentor: Michelle Barton, Ph.D.

###### Alumni and Faculty Association Award in Clinical/Translational Research

Jessica N. Clague, Mentor: Xifeng Wu, M.D., Ph.D.

##### SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENT AWARD

###### Alumni and Faculty Association Undergraduate Award for Research

Prince Otchere, Mentor: Peter C. Hu

#### ABSTRACT AWARDS:

##### POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

1st Place, AMGEN Award in Basic Science Research

**Yun Fan, PhD**, Mentor: Andreas Bergmann, PhD

Second Place, AMGEN Award in Basic Science Research

**Muthiah Kumaraswami, PhD**, Mentor: Richard Bren-  
nan, PhD

First Place, Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/  
Translational Research

**Liran Zhou, PhD**, Mentor: Michael Andreeff, MD, PhD

Second Place, Bristol-Myers Squibb Award in Clinical/  
Translational Research

**Venkata Lokesh Battula, PhD**, Mentor: Michael An-  
dreeff, MD, PhD

First Place, Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Award in  
Population/Patient-Oriented Research

**Xiaoqun Dong, MD**, Mentor: Donghui Li, PhD

2nd Place, Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Award in  
Population/Patient-Oriented Research

**Hushan Yang, PhD**, Mentor: Xi Feng Wu, MD, PhD

##### GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

First Place, Alumni and Faculty Association Award in Basic  
Science Research

**Svitlana Kurinna**, Mentor: Michelle Barton, PhD

Second Place, Alumni and Faculty Association Award in Basic  
Science Research

**Yen-Michael Sheng Hsu** Mentor: Xin Lin, PhD