

USU Newsletter

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New Board of Regents Member

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USU Newsletter
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USU President addresses health leaders at MHS conference

By TSgt. André Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

More than 3,000 military medical professionals from around the world gathered at the 2007 Military Health System Annual Conference, Jan. 29 – Feb. 1 in Washington, D.C., to learn about the new strategic plan that will shape the future of the Military Health System.

Dr. Charles Rice, USU president, along with other MHS leaders, took the opportunity to address members of the conference about USU being recognized as The Model 21st Century Academic Health Center.

“The U.S. academic health center is an enormously successful institutional model,” he said. “With the BRAC/Integration process underway, the Military Health System has the opportunity to create the model academic health center for the nation by bringing together education, research and especially clinical research, joining in partnerships with the National Institutes of Health.”

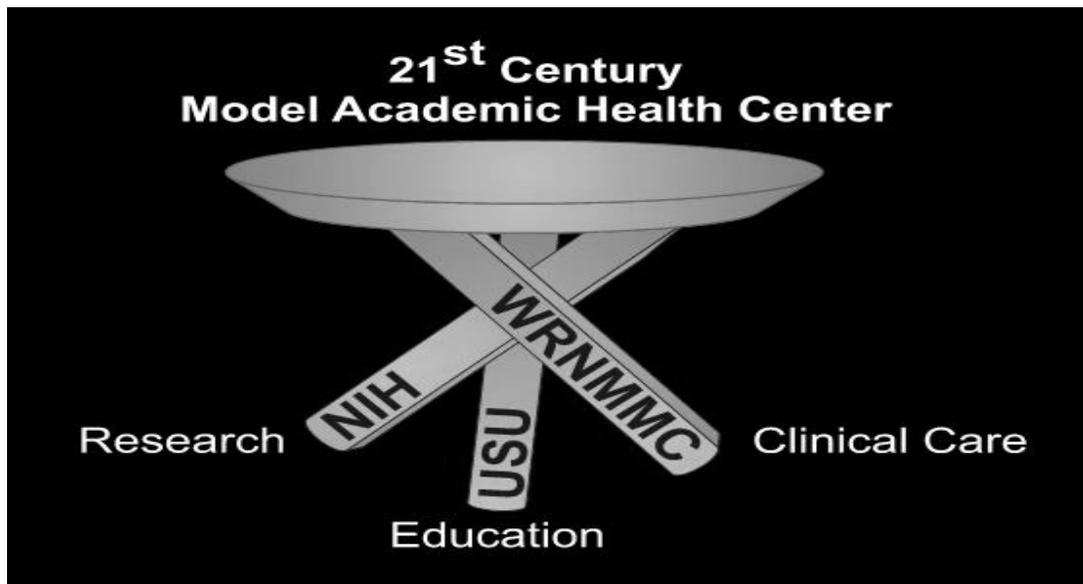
Senior DoD leaders Dr. David S.C. Chu, under secretary of defense for Personnel Readiness and Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs and director of TRICARE Management Activity (TMA), were also in attendance and thanked the men and women of the MHS who preserve the health of service members and their families.

The conference was hosted by Dr. Winken-

werder, Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TMA, and the Surgeons General of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and serves as a forum for Department of Defense health care professionals and their civilian counterparts to discuss issues, new programs and initiatives that affect health care delivery to 9.1 million TRICARE beneficiaries. This year’s conference theme was *Transforming Strategy into Action: Partners in Excellence*.

The focus of the conference was the MHS strategic plan and the initiatives that will help shape military medicine in the future. Some future initiatives that Dr. Winkenwerder addressed included transforming San Antonio, Texas into a “City of Military Medicine,” creation of a medical education and training campus, revamping the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases, and development of a joint DoD/Veteran Affairs electronic inpatient medical record. He went on to say that the strategic plan is the roadmap for helping military medical professionals meet even greater challenges in the years ahead.

The conference featured 90 breakout sessions centered on implementing the strategic plan and plenary sessions featuring senior DoD leadership and subject matter experts. More than 200 government and corporate exhibitors from around the country set up displays demonstrating innovative products and services related to healthcare management and medical supply services. The MHS conference is held annually in Washington, D.C.



USU's new Senior Director for CHE

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Continuing Education for Health Professionals (CHE) department recently welcomed a new Senior Executive Director.

CAPT Jaime Luke, NC, USN, is the new Senior Director for CHE succeeding CAPT Jane Mead, NC, USN, who was assigned to the Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Washington, D.C., in December.

"I'm very excited to be here," said Luke. "I've been interested in coming to USU for a number of years as I enjoy working in the education arena."

Luke was formerly assigned to the Naval Medical Education and Training Command (now called the Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command), where she was in charge of the Continuing Medical Education program and head of the Full-Time Outservice Graduate Medical Education program. In previous assignments, she was the clinical educator for nine outpatient clinics at the National Naval Medical Center and was in charge of their Breast Care Center.

"At CHE, I hope to further develop and expand our educational outreach to DOD's healthcare providers," said Luke. "Our department sponsors top quality continuing education for health professionals, which ultimately supports patient care."

Aside from being responsible for CHE with oversight of six continuing education accreditations, her new duties also include re-

sponsibility for the Military Training Network and co-chairing of the DOD Veterans Administration (VA) Health Executive Council for Continuing Education and Training workgroup, which has developed an infrastructure for sharing educational opportunities between the VA and DOD agencies.

"This is an exciting time to be assigned to USU," said Luke. "There are many changes underway within the Military Health System, increasing the need for education and training."

Luke said that continuing education significantly assists healthcare providers in advancing their practice and increasing their abilities in providing patient care.

"In the end, it's the increase in a patient's wellness that's the most important," said Luke. "In addition, continuing education directly supports the readiness of our military members. Because of increased availability of quality continuing education, healthcare providers are more prepared to take care of troops that are in harm's way and that's an important piece of our department."

Luke's husband is a USU alumnus who earned his medical degree in 1996 and also received his Masters in Public Health with a certificate in Tropical Medicine.



**CAPT Jaime Luke, USN,
Senior Director CHE**



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

USU's newest BOR member

The Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr., J.D., Board of Regents (BOR) chair (left), and Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU president (right), congratulate C. Thomas Yarrington, Jr., M.D., as a new BOR member during the Feb. 5 BOR meeting. Dr. Yarrington is currently engaged in a consultant practice in Otolaryngology and Medical Management. He retired from the Virginia Mason Hospital and Medical Center in Seattle, Wash., in 1997 where he served as head of Otolaryngology, and later chief of surgery. He is also a retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general.

Army team takes modern medical care to Afghans

By Mick Walsh
Staff Writer, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

Lt. Col. Bruce Schoneboom left a piece of himself in Afghanistan when he returned to Fort Benning from that war-torn country this week.

That's not to say he won't enjoy the homecoming party he planned to throw when he arrived back in Bethesda, Md., on Friday night.

But any observer could tell after a brief conversation that the experienced nurse anesthetist, who for the past year commanded an Army field hospital on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, is more focused on what he left behind than what lies ahead.

"Sure, I'd go back again," said the 48-year-old officer, who, while attached to Fort Benning's 14th Combat Support Hospital throughout 2006, ran the hospital at Forward Operating Base Salerno, home to a 10th Mountain Division brigade.

It's obvious that Schoneboom, a faculty member at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, has empathy for the patients he and his team treated during his deployment.

A quick visit to the blog he maintained for the past year will show that love for the Afghan people.

Schoneboom was among dozens of soldiers who, through the Professional Filler System were assigned to the 14th a year ago last month, returned from Afghanistan earlier this week. On Friday, they were awaiting transportation to their home bases.

"I'll be partying with friends sometime tonight," Schoneboom said.

It was the first deployment for the 21-year Army veteran.

"Some of the folks I worked with every day at the medical school had made two and three deployments," he said. "It was my turn."

Though the 14th was stationed at the giant Bagram Airfield, it operated several small field hospitals throughout the country, including the one at FOB Salerno, which is on the outskirts of Khowst, a city of almost 300,000.

It was there that Schoneboom, a native of Independence, Mo., and his staff of 38 surgeons, registered nurses, lab and X-ray tech-

nicians tended not only to wounded coalition soldiers, which fortunately were at a minimum, but to locals throughout nearby communities, many of whom lived in squalor.

"Early on, it became apparent that there simply would not be work enough if we treated only injured U.S. soldiers," Schoneboom said.

Figures compiled by the 14th CSH staff show that 80 percent of their patient load was made up of Afghan nationals.

"In many respects, Afghanistan is worse than any third world country," said Schoneboom, who scheduled monthly visits to remote villages throughout the eastern part of the country.

Most live in homes made of mud, with no water and no electricity. What heat there is – and this is winter in that part of the world – is supplied by kerosene or burning wood.

In fact, burns caused by carelessness are one of the main problems Army doctors treat.

"That and mine injuries," said Schoneboom. "This country has between 20 and 40 million land mines planted." He re-emphasized the word "million."

Amputations were commonplace. And their dental health? "Terrible!" he said.

"The life expectancy of Afghans is relatively short," he said. "To improve those numbers, they must eliminate poverty and provide more security for the people."

Some people, like the nomadic Kuchis, have never seen doctors.

"There were times that we felt more like missionaries than anything else," he said.

In addition to frequent convoy missions into the Afghan countryside, Schoneboom also facilitated the opening of an Afghan National Wing at the hospital where hundreds of Afghans have received medical treatment ranging from minor ailments to major trauma surgery.

"It's all on space-available basis," he said. "But we usually have time to treat the people."

He said that several of "the warfighters from the 10th" have returned to Salerno after a mission, praising the medical team for their outreach programs in remote villages. "They've said that because of the friendships they have built up with our folks, they are willing to provide valuable intelligence about where to find the Taliban," he said.

The same week that the entire 200-soldier-strong 14th CSH, including the Salerno contingent, returned to Fort Benning, the soldiers of the 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, learned that their tours have been extended.

Courtesy of online publication

100th Student Graduates from RSPEC Course

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Radiological Systems Performance Evaluation Course (RSPEC) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) recently graduated its 100th student, Jan. 19.

RSPEC is a two-week course provided by the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, that provides an introduction to three basic x-ray machines: medical; dental; and fluoroscope. Parts of the course make use of USU facilities, and make use of the National Naval Medical Center's x-ray facilities for hands-on training.

The course also provides education in survey techniques to ensure safe and effective use of these systems, shielding design, and reporting procedures.

RSPEC provides the 72-hour training requirement for level-one x-ray surveyor

certification from the Navy Environmental Health Center.

The course was founded in April, 1998, and is available to enlisted and commissioned personnel from the Navy, Army, Air Force, and Public Health Service, as well as civilian government employees. It is supported by several USU, AFRR and NNMC staff.

RSPEC is taught as needed, and has occurred as few times as once a year, to as many as once quarterly.

The course is scheduled to take place two more times this year, with classes in May and July.

Triple threat: USU staff member wins third 10K

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

A Publications Assistant for the Administrative Support Division (ASD) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) placed first in the High Mountain Coffee 10K (HMC10K) road race Jan. 28, in Williamsfield, Manchester, Jamaica.

Edmund Burke, a lifelong runner, has participated in the HMC10K twice previously, and has placed first each time, finishing his latest attempt in 32 minutes and 20 seconds, beating 249 other participants to the finish line.

Burke says he first ran the HMC10K in 1999, when a friend asked him to run the race in his place.

"One of my teammates had finished fifth at the Olympic trials, and had been invited down," Burke said. "The following year he wasn't able to do it, so he sent me down instead."

Burke finished first in the race, and then didn't hear from the race officials again until 2006, when he says he was accidentally asked to return to Jamaica and race again.

"I didn't hear from the race for several years, until they inadvertently called me," Burke said. "I said 'Ok, I'll come down,' so I went

down and won. Because I'd won they invited me back this year."

Burke said the officials asked him to return because they wanted someone who could provide competition for their best runners, but not blow them away.

"They were looking for someone who could possibly win the race, but also to give their best some competition. It's been a great experience," Burke said.

Burke received a trophy and a small amount of money as prizes, but said he valued the experience more than the physical rewards.

"Just the hospitality alone is nice," Burke said. "They were very kind, very friendly; it's a wonderful experience, it's one of the high-lights of my whole career, getting a chance to run in these races."

Of competitive running, Burke said it's not the conditions in which one races, but the physical condition of the runner.

"This course is particularly difficult, because it's up and down a mountain, and it's run at about 3:30 in the afternoon, so it's about 87 degrees with very high humidity," Burke said. "It's a very tough course, but it's not a matter of cold, heat, flats or hills, it's a matter of training, what kind of shape you're in. If you're able to run some good interval work a good few times a week, then you should be in pretty good shape for whatever comes your way."

Burke says he tends to participate in about one run per month, in anything from 5Ks to marathons.

"Right now I'm training for a marathon, and I'm in shape to get in shape. A few more short intervals at an intense pace. Basically it's just intense training year in year out."



Photo by Cathy Brown

Surgeons General meet USU students at Anchor and Caduceus Dinner

The 13th and 17th Surgeons General of the United States (Retired Dr. C. Everett Koop, VADM, USPHS; Retired VADM, USPHS Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS) with the Future of the Commissioned Corps - USPHS ensigns and students from USU - enjoy the Anchor and Caduceus Dinner.

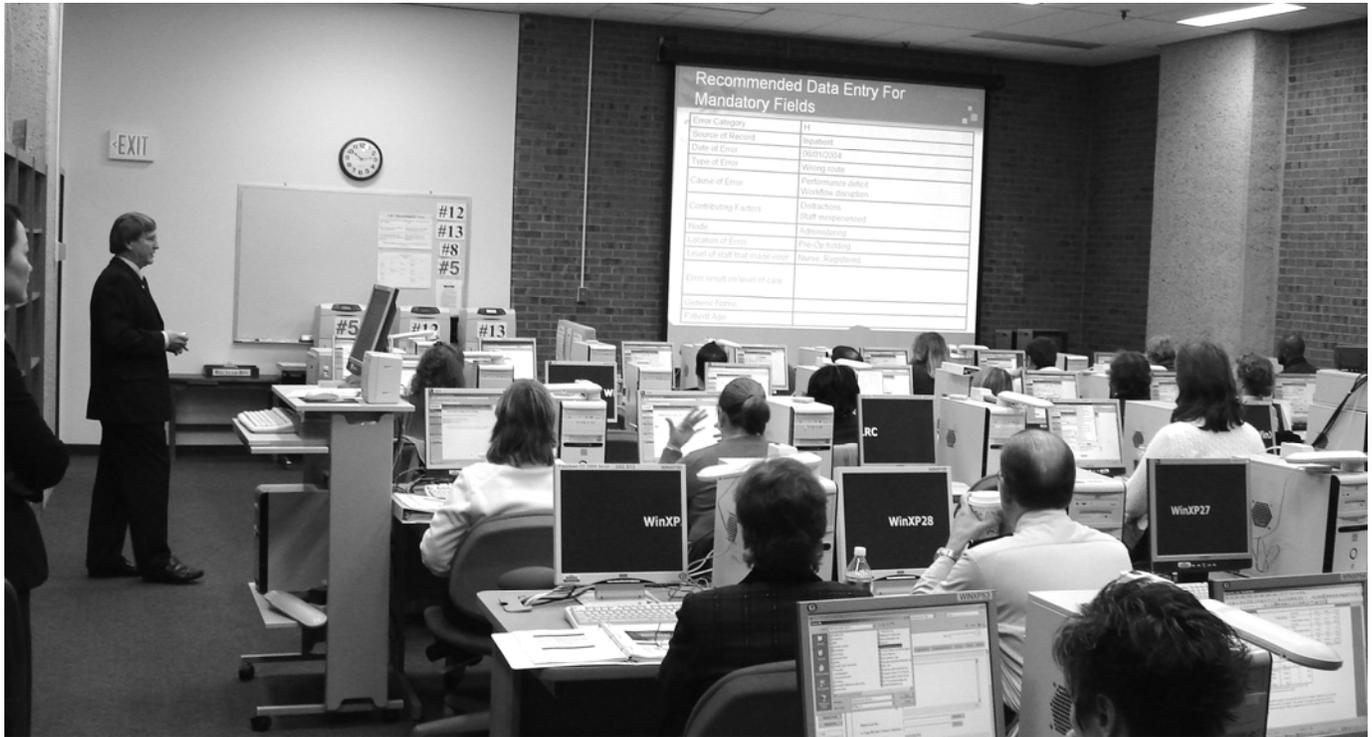


Photo by MCSN Jeff Hopkins

USU host to Basic Patient Safety Manager's course

Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel from throughout the Department of Defense's (DOD) healthcare environment gathered at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) during the first week of February to participate in the Basic Patient Safety Manager's course. The one-week course, through a mix of hands-on exercises and lecture, teaches students how to conduct patient-safety investigations, as well as the use of the software related to the investigations, including medication errors and data-analysis. Although it is a DOD center for Education and Research in Patient Safety, it operates under the auspices of the university.

DOD travel policies

Frequently travelers ask whether they are automatically entitled to an exemption of hotel taxes while performing Temporary Duty (TDY.) Unfortunately there is no nationwide exemption of hotel or rental car taxes for Federal travelers. Some cities may offer an exemption to travelers who present an individual Government Travel Card as the form of payment, but this is strictly up to that particular municipality or state. Below are three mandatory DOD travel policies that some travelers have been forgetting:

1. Mandatory Use of the Government Travel Card (GTC)

All government travel cardholders must use the card for their official travel expenses such as lodging, rental car, and transportation. It is not required for payment of tips, parking, or meals. This is an excerpt from the DOD Financial Management Regulation, Vol. 9 Chapter 3. "Unless otherwise exempted, all DoD personnel are required to use the government sponsored, contractor-issued travel charge card for all expenses arising from official government travel. Although a traveler may be required to use the government travel charge card, failure to do so shall not be a basis for refusing to reimburse the traveler for otherwise appropriate charges. Such failure, however, may subject the traveler to appropriate administrative or disciplinary action." DoD mandates that any employee or service member who travels on official funded TDY three or more times per year, must obtain a travel card. If you already have a card and travel

at least once every 12 months, your account will be kept open.

2. Mandatory Use of the Government Contracted Travel Office

The following is from the Joint Travel Regulation: "It is DoD mandatory policy that travelers use available Contracted Travel Offices (CTO) to arrange official travel, including transportation and rental cars. Commands/units are expected to take appropriate disciplinary action when travelers and/or Approving Officials fail to follow the regulations concerning CTO use." Carlson Wagonlit (CWT) is the contracted Department of Defense Travel Agency supporting the University, and must be used when making all official travel arrangements. Attached is some CWT information from the University's Administrative Services Division (ASD) who handles the issuing of University travel orders and administering CWT support to University personnel.

3. Mandatory Use of Split Disbursement

If you are a government travel cardholder and have a balance owed on your card when you file your voucher, you must use the Split Disbursement option for payment of the amount owed the bank. Enter the amount owed in block 1 of the DD 1351-2 Travel Voucher. If you do not owe anything when you file, or have already sent in your full payment, then enter \$0.00 in the Split Disbursement block. If a traveler submits a travel voucher with \$0.00 in the Split Disbursement block, and it is determined that there is an outstanding balance on the traveler's travel card, then the travel voucher will be returned to the traveler for correction. Please feel free to contact me if you do not understand the above, but please do not contact me to ask for an exception to the above, as there are no exceptions to these **mandatory** policies.

USU News Briefs

New Assistant Dean Appointed

LTC(P) Lisa Moores, MC, USA, has been selected as the fourth assistant dean for Clinical Sciences. LTC(P) Moores is well known throughout the USU community, the WRAMC community and all of military medicine.

USU Inclement Weather Notification

The current operating status of USU during inclement weather can be obtained by calling the USU Inclement weather phone number (301) 295-3039 for a recording by, or checking the USU website homepage at www.usuhs.mil.

African American History Month

February marks the 81st annual observance of African American History Month. The national theme for this year's observance is "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas." African American History Month is a great opportunity for all personnel to reflect on the contributions and achievements of African Americans to our nation. There are more than 68,471 active duty, 10,183 Reserve, and 22,915 Civil Service African American personnel who proudly serve our nation.

Farewell Gathering

There will be a farewell gathering to honor HMCM Smith, USN (BDE) for his service to USU as the Senior Enlisted Leader, Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m. in Lecture Room C. All are invited to attend.

10 Week PFT/PFA/APFT Notice

The Army APFT, Navy PRT, and Air Force APFT will be conducted at 7 a.m. and noon on the following dates: April 3, 5, 10, 12, and 17 for all faculty, staff, and students (excluding SOM). Naval personnel must complete the Health Risk Assessment questionnaire by Feb. 9, and a Physical Health Assessment annually; Navy weigh-ins must be conducted between 10 days and 24 hours prior to the Navy PRT. For more info, contact SFC Abrams, USA (MEM) at (301) 295-8207.

Blue Angels Enlisted Applications

The Navy is currently soliciting for applications for the Navy

Flight Demonstration Squadron. For those interested in applying, applications must be postmarked by April 1 for enlisted personnel and April 30 for officers. For more information, go to the NAVADMIN for officers at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/5E1274B9-C733-450A-A2A2-4D018A44D022/0/NAV07023.txt> or the NAVADMIN for enlisted at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/B0CC1345-7646-4A44-A685-AC817E11EA90/0/NAV07022.txt>.

2006 Linda Strangio Editor's Award

Maureen Hood, MS, RN, and Hugh Scott, MS, are the winners of the 2006 Linda Strangio Editor's Award for the article "Introduction to picture archive and communication system," which appeared in the Sept. 2006 issue of the Journal of Radiology Nursing (JRN) this award is named in honor of Linda Strangio, past editor of Images (former name of the JRN), for her contributions to the ARNA and radiology nursing. It is the belief of the Editorial Board of JRN that the article best portrayed the true meaning of the radiology nursing profession. The award will be presented at the ARNA Annual Business Meeting on March 5, in Seattle, WA.

Radiology and Radiological Sciences Professor elected as President

The Radiology Research Alliance elected Lorraine G. Shapeero, M.D., Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, president of its organization. In addition, Dr. Shapeero received two awards from the Radiology Research Alliance for her outstanding leadership and contributions. Dr. Shapeero is also editor of *Research Initiatives in Radiology and the Radiological Sciences*, the first compendium on national and international research programs in radiology and the radiological sciences.

Department Chair has electronic medical journal article published

James Smirniotopoulos, M.D., chair of the Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, and professor of Radiology, Neurology, and Biomedical Informatics, has electronically published a medical article titled "MR and CT imaging of 24 pleomorphic xanthoastrocytomas (PXA) and a review of the literature." The article will also be published in the *Neuroradiology Journal* later this year. Dr. Smirniotopoulos' article can be viewed at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00234-006-0191-z>.

Today in History:

Air Force:

1959: Strategic Air Command retires its last B-36 Peacemaker to become an all-jet bomber force.

Navy:

1976: Capt. Fran McKee becomes the Navy's first woman line officer selected for promotion to the rank of rear admiral.

Army:

2001: Army boxers carded 25 tournament points by winning eight gold and one silver in the 10 contested weight classes in the Armed Forces Boxing Championship.

Quote: Thanks to modern medicine we are no longer forced to endure prolonged pain, disease, discomfort and wealth.

- Robert Orben





USU Calendar of Events



<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>LRC Training Classes PubMed Basics 6p.m. - 7p.m. LRC</p> <p>"Sensitization of Lys 63-linked polyubiquitination is a key event in NF-kB activation"</p> <p>Lecture Room C 11:30a.m. - 1p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Mechanisms of striatal injury in neonatal hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:30p.m. Lecture Room A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Valentine Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>LRC Training Classes EndNote Basics 6p.m. - 7p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>LRC Training Classes Creating Alerts Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p> <p>Sugar, Sperm and STD: The Role of Galectin-3 in Semen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:30p.m. Lecture Room A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>LRC Training Classes EndNote Basics Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p> <p>LRC Training Classes Creating Alerts 6p.m. - 7p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>"Molecular Machinery for the Transport of Neurotransmitter Receptors at Synapses"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:30p.m. Lecture Room A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>LRC Training Classes EndNote Basics Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>LRC Training Classes PubMed Basics Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>