

**Editor: Henny van Dijk**

**[www.uthro.org](http://www.uthro.org)**

**July, 2022**

## Annual Benefits Meeting



The UTHealth Houston Office of Employee Benefits will host an in-person annual enrollment benefits and retirement fair on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 from 10:00am to Noon for the retirees and Noon to 3:00pm for all other employees at the Beth Robinson Auditorium of the UT Brown Foundation IMM building located at 1825 Pressler St, Houston, TX 77030. We will be in the atrium area with lots of space.

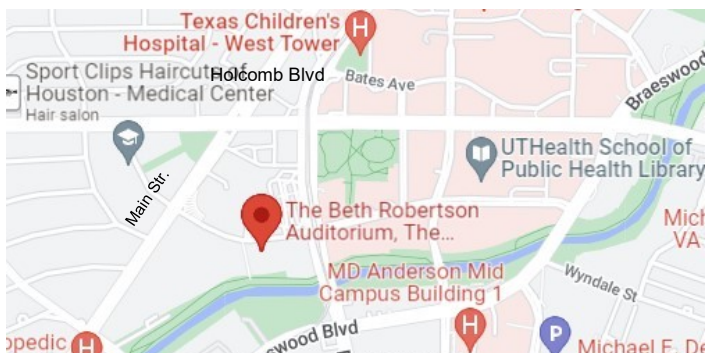
We are planning to have door prizes for our attendees. This will be our first in person benefit fair in two years and we look forward to your participation! All of our vendors Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Texas, Delta Dental, Wellness, Express Script, Employee Assistance Program will be there.

The representatives from Austin have not been decided yet, but a social security rep would be present as well. If you have any questions or need additional assistance please contact Ms. Jones—

713-500-3822—[Stephanie.S.Jones@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Stephanie.S.Jones@uth.tmc.edu)

Kindly,

*Jennifer Figueroa;*



## Executive Board Nominations



At our Annual Meeting this November, UTHRO Members will be electing new officers to serve on the Executive Committee. Officers serve for a 2-year term and may be re-elected for an additional consecutive 2-year term. The term of office begins on January 1 of the following year of the election.

This year the terms of our President and Vice President will expire. The Events Chair, which is an appointed position, will also need to be filled. One of the duties of the Vice President is to chair the Nominating Committee for new officers. It is in that capacity that I am coming to you. I have served on UTHRO Executive Committee in the capacity of Member-at-Large, Treasurer, President and now Vice President. I have found each of these experiences to be extremely rewarding. I am asking that you consider a leadership role in UTHRO and volunteer to be part of the Executive Committee in some capacity. The duties and responsibilities for each position is posted on our website at [www.uthro.org/bylaws](http://www.uthro.org/bylaws). I asked that you review them and see what you feel would be the best fit for you and then step up to the plate to help guide UTHRO into the future.

If you would like to discuss any position with me, please feel free to reach out by email at Barbara Kelly at [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu)  
 Vice President, UTHRO

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## The Science of Being Human



A scholarship honoring the memory of beloved MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School professor and deceased UTHRO member Henry Strobel.

Students, colleagues, and friends of the late Henry W. Strobel, PhD, still envision him three-stepping through the labs of MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School in his

clerical collar, toes tapping as he skips toward another meeting. In the years since his passing in 2019, his delightful footsteps and guiding words still echo.

"Dr. Strobel didn't just teach us how to be scientists," says Auinash "Nash" Kalsotra, PhD '05. "He taught us how to be human beings."

To former Strobel mentees (who refer to themselves as Strobelians) Strobel was more than a teacher—he was a role model, parental figure, and trusted confidant. In addition to his faculty appointments at the graduate school and McGovern Medical School, he was an ordained Episcopal priest. Former students lovingly called him "Father Doctor Strobel."

Among his most important lessons, Strobel taught to celebrate the little wins and enjoy their journeys in science.

"At the end of our busiest days in the lab, Dr. Strobel would take us to dinner at his home or some amazing restaurant where we would eat seven courses and talk for hours," says Nash. "He always wanted to recognize our efforts and bring his students together."

"In everything we do, we try to pass on the values that Dr. Strobel gave us and create opportunities for our students," says Sayee Anakk. "We frequently invite our students to our home for dinner where we enjoy the same kind of seven-course meals we had with Dr. Strobel. Our office is always open, and our students know they can come to us with questions on science or life."

As Nash and Sayee's careers were taking off, Strobel's health was deteriorating. The couple returned to Houston in the summer of 2019 to spend time with him and take him to his favorite restaurants. A few months later, he passed away.

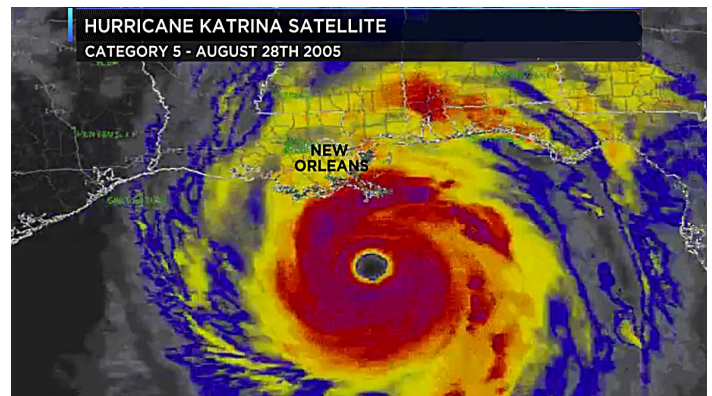
Many of Strobel's former students and trainees came together at his funeral to say farewell. As the Strobelians shared their fondest memories, an idea came to Sayee. "I thought we should establish a scholarship to embody Strobel's spirit in science," says Sayee. "Everyone loved the idea, and we decided to start a crowdfunding campaign."

With Nash and Sayee leading the effort, 28 supporters gave more than \$25,000 to establish the Henry W. Strobel, PhD, Endowed Scholarship at MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to outstanding graduate students, furthering Strobel's legacy of recognizing and celebrating the successes of his students.

*Friends and supporters who would like to help grow the Henry W. Strobel, PhD, Endowed Scholarship can make a gift at [go.uth.edu/StrobelScholarship](https://go.uth.edu/StrobelScholarship).*

## A Warning to the Wise...

I ran into this article by Nick Shay and thought it appropriate as a warning for the 2022 hurricane season.



The Atlantic hurricane season did start on June 1, and the Gulf of Mexico is already warmer than average. Even more worrying is a current of warm tropical water that is looping unusually far into the Gulf for this time of year, with the power to turn tropical storms into monster hurricanes. It's called the Loop Current, and it's the 800-pound gorilla of Gulf hurricane risks.

When the Loop Current reaches this far north this early in the hurricane season – especially during what's forecast to be a busy season – it can spell disaster for folks along the Northern Gulf Coast, from Texas to Florida. This year, the Loop Current looks remarkably similar to the way it did in 2005, the year Hurricane Katrina crossed the Loop Current before devastating New Orleans. Of the 27 named storms that year, seven became major hurricanes.

Wilma and Rita also crossed the Loop Current that year and became two of the most intense Atlantic hurricanes on record.

The Loop Current was about as far north as Tampa, FL, in mid May 2022. When a tropical storm passes over the Loop Current or one of its giant eddies – large rotating pools of warm water that spin off from the current – the storm can explode in strength as it draws energy from the warm water.

Once tropical storms reach waters that are around 78 F (26 C) or warmer, they can strengthen into hurricanes, which draw most of their strength from the top 100 feet (30 meters) of the ocean. But the Loop Current's subtropical water is deeper and warmer, and also saltier, than Gulf common water allowing the warm current and its eddies to retain heat to great depths.

In mid-May 2022, the Loop Current had water temperatures 78 F or warmer down to about 330 feet (100 meters). By summer, that heat could extend down to around 500 feet (about 150 meters). With favorable atmospheric conditions, this deep reservoir of heat helped a storm explode almost overnight into a very powerful and dangerous Category 4 hurricane.

Forecasters have other clues—one is La Niña, the climate opposite of El Niño. La Niña has been unusually strong in spring 2022, allowing more wind shear toward the end of the season. Dust from the Sahara and low humidity can both reduce the likelihood storms will form.



## Visit to the Transtar Bldg...



On Thursday July 7 we plan to visit the Houston TranStar site. Let Gill Rittman know by **Friday July 1 if you plan to go..** There is no charge for this trip except your own lunch. **Please be at OCB at 9:20** for the bus trip to Transtar, parking validation provided. Gillian information: [gillianrittman@gmail.com](mailto:gillianrittman@gmail.com) or phone her at 713-542-1865

Houston TranStar is a unique partnership of representatives from the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO and TxDOT who share resources and exchange information under one roof to keep motorists informed, roadways clear and lives safe in the fourth most populated city in the United States.

Established in 1993, the Houston TranStar brand is globally recognized for managing southeast Texas' transportation system and functioning as the primary coordination site for state, county and local agencies when responding to incidents and emergencies.

We mitigate congestion on area roadways using cutting-edge technologies, assist and consult neighboring jurisdictions with traffic management services and offer guidance to various agencies throughout the country, as well as to delegations across the globe, on important transportation and emergency management topics.

If you like me live close to the facility you could drive yourself to 6922 Katy Rd. near the Loop 610 interchange. but please let Gill know if you will be on the tour and if you plan on eating with us at the nearby Ranchero Buffet..

Contact Gill at - Gillian Rittman at [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu)



## A Lecture Series in Honor of ...

Save the date for the inaugural

# AGING TO PERFECTION LECTURE SERIES

in honor of Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD

Keynote Speaker  
**Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN**  
PRESIDENT, THE JOHN A. HARTFORD FOUNDATION

Thursday, September 15, 2022  
5:30 to 7 pm

The inaugural presentation of this lecture series in honor of Carmel Dyer, MD will take place on Thursday September 15 at the Briar Club on 2603 Timmons Lane.

To register visit [go.uth.edu/dyerlecture](http://go.uth.edu/dyerlecture) or call 713-500-3040



The keynote speaker will be Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, President of the John Hartford Foundation dedicated to improving the care of older adults. Established in 1929, the Foundation has a current endowment of more than half a billion dollars. She serves as the chief strategist for the Foundation and her vision for better care of older adults is

catalyzing the Age-Friendly Health Systems social movement.

She received her bachelor's degree from Skidmore College, her master's and doctoral degrees from Boston College and her Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Post-Master's Certificate from NYU. She completed a Brookdale National Fellowship and she is the first nurse to have served on the board of the American Geriatrics Society. She is also the first nurse to have served as President of the Gerontological Society of America, which awarded her the 2019 Donald P. Kent Award for exemplifying the highest standards for professional leadership in the field of aging.

Dr. Fulmer is nationally and internationally recognized as a leading expert in geriatrics and is also known for conceptualization and development of the national NICHE program and research on the topic of elder abuse and neglect. She has held faculty appointments at Columbia University, and she has also held appointments at Boston College, Yale University, and the Harvard Division on Aging at Harvard Medical School. She is a Distinguished Practitioner of the National Academies of Practice and currently an attending nurse at Mount Sinai Medical Center in NYC. Her clinical appointments have included the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, the Massachusetts General Hospital, and the NYU Langone Medical Center. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the Gerontological Society of America, and the New York Academy of Medicine where she served as vice-chair. She has authored over 150 peer-reviewed papers and edited 10 books.

# UTHRO

The University of Texas Houston Retiree Organization  
5827 White Clover Dr.  
Richmond, TX 77469

*To update your address or phone number  
please contact us at 281-655-1983*

## And Now For Something Completely Different... English is a tough language..... :

**English is the only language where you drive on parkways and park in driveways.**

**It is also the only language where you recite in a play and play in a recital**

**Your fingers have fingertips, but your toes don't have toetips, although you can tiptoe through the tulips.**

**The word 'Queue is just a Q followed by three silent letters**

**Jail and Prison are synonyms, but jailer and prisoner are antonyms**

**When you transport something by car it is called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it is called cargo.**



### UTHRO OFFICERS 2022

**President** Kathryn Bradley  
**Vice-Pres** Barbara Kelly  
**Secretary** Daun Gray  
**Treasurer** Margaret Zambrano  
**Web Administrators** Henny van Dijk, Pat Grealy & Glenn Schreyer

To protect our officers' personal information on our website, UTHRO has instituted a new general purpose email address: [uthro@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:uthro@uth.tmc.edu). This is a "forwarding" email that will send copies to both the UTHRO president and Efen Pena who will then forward the email to the appropriate person. Including the recipient's name in your subject will be very helpful; e.g. Subject: For Barry, BBQ lunch. If UTHRO members already know the phone number or personal email address of an officer then by all means continue using that for your communication needs.

**Newsletter Editor** Henny van Dijk