

### **Department of Cellular and Structural Biology Welcomes Italian Exchange Students**

The UT Health Science Center's Department of Cellular and Structural Biology recently hosted five Italian medical students from the University of Bologna. The students came to participate in "Regional Anatomy of the Head, Neck and Trunk for the Foreign Medical Student," a five-week anatomy workshop.



*Italian Exchange students Antonio Mazzotti, Maria Laura Alfieri, Federico Cipriani, Chiara Sartor and Alessandro Bertaccini visited the Health Science Center to learn more about anatomy and physiology. There are few bodies donated to science in Italy.*

The workshop was developed by [Charleen Moore](#), Ph.D., professor of cellular and structural biology, and two of her colleagues, [Ron Philo](#), Ph.D., senior lecturer of cellular and structural biology, and [Vick Williams](#), M.D., Ph.D., professor of cellular and structural biology.

The concept of the workshop began as a result of discussions with faculty at the University of Bologna during a visit to Italy last spring as part of a senior medical school elective that Dr. Moore offers, "[History of Anatomy In Situ](#)." This elective allows fourth-year medical students to visit several universities and other venues in Italy where anatomical studies were first begun during the Renaissance. Currently, there are few bodies donated for medical education in Italy, so Italian medical students do not have the opportunity during their studies to participate in anatomical dissection as American students do. Dr. Moore and her colleagues developed the workshop to provide this experience for the Italian students. During their visit to the Health Science Center, the Italian students attended both medical and dental lectures with Health Science Center first-year students and participated in dissections.

*Italian students show off UT Health Science Center bears dressed in scrubs at a reception for them sponsored by the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology. The bears were a gift from Theresa Chiang, Ed.D., vice president for academic administration. Pictured are Maria Laura Alfieri, Chiara Sartor, Federico Cipriani, Antonio Mazzotti and Alessandro Bertaccini.*



"I think this workshop will add to the Italian students' knowledge of anatomy and also will allow them to be introduced to a different medical curriculum and students from a different cultural background," Dr. Moore said. "These types of exchanges are very important for both the Italian and the Health Science Center students in helping to broaden their world view and to promote positive international relations. The anatomy workshop and senior elective in Italy are programs that we hope to continue in the future," she said.