the surgeon stands between the doughnuts, watching a video monitor displaying the MRI images—which can be updated as quickly as twice per second.

Because the image is configured to allow the surgeon access to the patient, the field strength is less than a regular diagnostic MRI—0.5 versus 1.5 Tesla—so the resulting image quality is inferior. However, the preoperative CT or MRI scans are still required to familiarize oneself with the anatomy and look for subtle lesions, Dr. Sewell said.

The intra-operative MRI is used to localize the kidney, then plan and monitor the path of the probe. As the surgeon inserts it through a 4 mm incision into the centre of the tumour, the probe—called CryoHit and designed by Teal Auvil-based Galli Ltd.—is non-magnetic, so it doesn't interfere with MR imaging.

Dr. Sewell uses three cycles of freezing and thawing to rupture the tumour cell membranes. Pressurized argon gas is used for freezing, producing a temperature of −186 °C at the tip of the probe, creating an "ice ball" whose growth can be monitored on the video screen. Pressurized helium gas then heats the tissue to up to 80 °C.

"The MRI allows me to see where the probe tip is and move around and get three-dimensional views. It's just like slicing through the body. It's a virtual surgery, essentially."

In less than an hour, the tumour is a shrunken mass of inert cellular debris and the patient goes home the next day.

"You just put a Band-Aid on them and they're well. People of all ages, you can't even find the scar—it's so small," said Dr. Sewell. Ordinary naked-eye surgery, he added, involves a 10-inch incision, removal of surrounding tissue and weeks of recovery time.

The technology, said Dr. Sewell, could one day replace nephrectomy, if it has the same end result.

"If you're facing with having your kidney removed and going on dialysis because you have a tumour, this is certainly of great benefit."

[From the Mississippi Medical News, Nov. 19, 1999]

**UMC PHYSICIANS PIONEER NEW LUNG CANCER SURGERY IN CHINA**

Two physicians from the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC) have been in China treating its overwhelming number of lung cancer patients—and teaching China's doctors to do the same. If this medical undertaking is successful, it could change the way lung cancer surgery is performed worldwide.

The UMC physicians used a new surgical procedure which was performed for the first time in the world at UMC and, since then, has been used at the Jackson medical center for the past six months.

Surgeon/radiologist Dr. Patrick Sewell and oncologist Dr. Ralph Vance taught China's physicians how to perform the new surgery to battle lung cancer. In the process, the UMC physicians are conducting the study of the results fully controlled patients in the United States and worldwide.

"China has 300 million smokers, which is more than the entire population of the United States." says Sewell, an assistant professor of radiology at UMC. "So they need a cost-effective way to treat lung cancer. This is a fast and cheap way to destroy tumors in the body."

Sewell pioneered the new surgical procedure, called a radiofrequency of the lung tumor ablation, at UMC. He is considered the world's authority on the procedure. Vance, a UMC professor of medicine, is designing and directing the related study and its joint research by leading endocrine institutions in the People's Republic of China.

Sewell visited three cities—Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai—to lecture, demonstrate, and operate. His fellowship training was at China Oct. 4 and returned Oct. 17. Vance set up the patients and the study in advance, visiting China Oct. 17 through Oct. 24.

Sewell also is nationally known for developing new surgical procedures using UMC's interventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to destroy tumors very similar to the China procedure. (UMC is one of three test sites in the United States for the vertical twin-magnet interventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners about a month later, those 10 patients will have positron emission tomography (PET) scans to determine whether their cancers are indeed destroyed.

Since lung cancer is aggressive, about a month after surgery is an ideal time to evaluate the outcomes, Vance says.

"We will evaluate the effects of radiofrequency and other ablation abnormalities without combined chemotherapy and radiation therapy to assess overall survival," states Vance. Both mid- and late-stage lung cancer are being treated in the China project.

"We'll collect the data, publish it, and hope to prove our hypothesis—that this will be an effective way to treat a variety of lung tumors," Sewell concludes.

**CLEVELAND WILL MISS DON WEBSTER**

*HON. STEVE C. LATOURRETTE OF OHIO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, November 18, 1999*  

**Mr. LATOURRETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Cleveland legend who is leaving our fair city and heading south. Don Webster will no longer give Clevelanders the lowdown on lake effect snow, water spouts at our beaches, and his meteorological prowess whenever hurricane watches and warnings are announced, and wax poetic about approaching fronts and the effects of El Nino and La Nina. Don Webster and I first met more than a decade ago when I was the Lake County prosecutor and he was the grand marshal of the Fairport Harbor Mardi Gras Parade, and our paths have crossed many times since, especially at charity events. Don Webster probably feels sadder than I do about his loss. I've known him since I was about 10 years old.**

**I used to watch Don Webster every Sunday on a small, black-and-white TV in the living room of our childhood home in Cleveland Heights as he emceed Academic Challenge. My hope in mentioning this is that Don will at least a feel a little bit sad since he looks roughly the same today as he did three and a half decades ago. It hardly seems fair that Don Webster remains the epitome of vigor and personality, while youth who know him only through his TV appearances are losing our hair.**

Don Webster is known to an entire generation of Americans as the host of nationally
TRIBUTE TO BRANDI NICHOLE GASKEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.
OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the best students in my district, Brandi Nichole Gaskey, has just graduated from Farragut High School. She has had an amazing four years in high school. She was a member of the National Honor Society all four years, and she was also President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes her junior and senior year.

Brandi was also involved in sports at Farragut and was voted most athletic, as well.

Mr. Speaker, recently Brandi Gaskey was addressed to give the commencement address at Farragut High School. I have attached a copy of her remarks that I would like to call to the record.

HOPE THROUGH CHARACTER 1999 GRADUATION ADDRESS

(By Brandi Nichole Gaskey)

Mr. Superintendent, friends, family, distinguishing guests, and fellow graduates of the last class of the century. I stand before you tonight filled with excitement as I welcome you to the 1999 Farragut High School Graduation Ceremony. As we have come to the end of our formal education, to for some of us a miraculous occasion, the question was asked “Does character count?” Although I could not think of one word to define character, I respond with an enthusiastic YES, character does count. It counts for you and me and every person we will ever come to know. It counts in big ways through the small things we do or say every day. Character is who you are in the dark, when no one is looking. It’s what’s on the inside, the quiet stuff you’ve made of that no one knows about, but one day every one will see. My pastor, Doug Sager, once said, “your character is your set of values that are non negotiable. It’s the quality of life given to you by God to say what is right and to stand up for it.” For you see, your character can either make you or break you because every one has choices, you just a matter of how you choose to develop it. For example, two students at Columbine High School had the character to kill their fellow classmates, while another student at the same school had the character to stand up for their faith no matter what the cost. So I’d like to share with you today how to develop your character, and exactly why it does count. Moris Mandel tells a story of how the forming of our character is like the forming of an icicle. Once an icicle forms one drop at a time until it is about one foot or two long. If the water was clear, the icicle remains clear and sparkles like dia- mond. But if the icicle is made from muddy water, the icicle looks foul and its beauty is spoiled. Just so, our characters are forming one little thought at a time, one little action at a time. In the Bible, in Romans 5:4 it states, “Trials make perseverance, perseverance our character, and that character produces hope.” Helen Keller also stated, “character cannot be developed in ease and quiet, it is only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” Your character is seen and developed through the hard times of life. So I’d like for you to think of an experience that has helped shape your character. I thought about my basketball team, and how Romans 5:3-4 applied to us in so many ways. We had faced so many trials, from a freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior year. The track and field team is very much like a baseball team. I thought about the many hours of practice and endless season track workouts and in the teamroom after a loss and doing nothing. The trials taught us perseverance, and we produced character, and that character gave us hope.

Hope for this team proudly finished with a winning record of 16-12. Or think of someone you know who has an extreme amount of character. It may be someone who loses their wife and daughter, but still lives life in the best way he can, or someone who works hard and only makes enough money to feed his/her family. Or someone who has failed but just keeps on trying and trying again and no one knows how bad they’ve hurt or hard they’ve worked. It’s studying so hard for an AP Latin test, a math final, or an English exam to realize you make a D, so the next time you study so much harder and finally make the A. Character is all these things. It is formed when you realize you’re at your lowest, but hey, you gotta keep on going. So I’d like to challenge you class of 1999 to see each trial you will face as an opportunity to prove your character. All of these things will “strengthen your soul, clear your vision, inspire your ambition, and teach you by God to say what is right and to stand up for it.”

Just like the Bible says, your character produces hope. Hope through God that we will make a difference, hope that we are going to be the best leaders, parents, teachers, ministers, and merchants in the history of our nation, hope that what we do matters, and hope that our character will count in forming a better tomorrow. So be the people of character you are called to be and work daily on strengthening your soul and developing your inner spirit. Margot Isobel once said, “we are what make up the important character of your true heart and true character. She said, “I think t’would be lovely to live and do good, to grow up to be the girl that I should. A heart full of sunshine and a life full of grace are beauty far better than beauty of face. I think t’would be lovely to make people glad, to cheer up the lonely, discour-aged, and said. What matters if homely or pleasant to see, if lovely in spirit I’m striving to be.” So you see your character can make a difference in the lives of others. It’s your character that shows the true spirit, it’s what you’ve developed these last 17 or 18 years, what you’ve persevered through at home and school, it’s your character that shows the true spirit and why it’s essential. So let God guide you through your trials you will face in college, your career, your marriage, and as a parent, and let those “trials make perseverance, perseverance your character, and let character produce you in hope?” (Romans 5:3-4). So I’d like to congratulate you class of 1999. We made it and we finished the ride successfully, but I’d like to leave you with the words of Abraham Lincoln. He said, “Faith is a vapor, popularity an accident, and riches take wings. Only one thing endures forever and that is your character.”

Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing the Small Business Disaster Assistance Act. This is a two-part proposal that seeks to provide both immediate assistance to viable small businesses and agricultural enterprises when first dealing with the damage wrought by a disaster, and more long-term assistance which seeks to provide them with the needed lift as they continue to work towards normalcy.

My bill creates a program whereby viable small businesses and agricultural enterprises would be eligible for a grant of up to $30,000 in order to provide them with the immediate assistance they need when dealing with a disaster. Additionally, the bill creates a loan program that acknowledges the great difficulties small businesses owners and farmers encounter during the first year following a disaster by allowing for a one-year deferral on any repayments toward the loan, and, furthermore, allows the recipient to pay back the principal of that loan before the interest.

This is a compassionate, reasonable proposal that seeks to provide small businesses and farmers with assistance during a time when they need it most. I’d like to thank my colleagues from New Jersey, Congressman Frank Pallone for his work in helping in drafting this legislation, and I hope that our colleagues will join us in this effort to assist small business owners and farmers whose lives have been fundamentally diminished by natural disaster.

ROMANIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Romanian Caucus, I rise today to enter into the record remarks in support of Romania. Mr. Speaker, the Heads of State and Government participating in the Istanbul Summit will designate the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the year 2001.

Romania has been fostering support for its candidacy since 1996. On November 23, 2000, the Romanian Government announced its candidacy for the OSCE Chair in 2001. Romania enjoys U.S. support and has succeeded to build consensus around its candidacy among full OSCE