

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 magnet 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 not as good. High-quality 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 cryosurgical probe as the surgeon inserts it through a 4 mm incision into the centre of the tumour.

The probe—called Cryo-Hit and designed by Tel Aviv-based Galil 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 up to 80°C .

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

In just over 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 we're finished. In a couple of months, 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 faced 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. 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 practiced only 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 study of the results, which eventually could benefit 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 UMC and academic institutions in the People's Republic of China.

Sewell visited three cities—Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai—to lecture, demonstrate, and perform the surgeries. He went to China Oct. 4 and returned Oct. 17. Vance set up the patients and the study in advance, visiting China Oct. 1 through Oct. 8.

Sewell also is nationally known for developing new surgical procedures using UMC's interventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit, which involves procedures very similar to the China procedure. (UMC is one of three test sites in the United States for the vertical twin-magnet interventional MRI; the other are at the teaching hospitals of Harvard and Stanford Universities.)

The interventional MRI displays magnetic resonance images in real-time during surgery so the physician can see a surgery's progress and whether tumors are being destroyed. The China radiofrequency tumor ablation surgeries, in which a hot probe is used for tumor removal, employ an interventional CAT scanner instead of the interventional MRI.

In both procedures, a tiny incision in the patient's skin enables the physician to insert a probe into the body to destroy the tumors. In the pioneering interventional MRI procedures, a cold CryoHit (freezing) probe most often is used. The interventional CAT scanner surgeries in China used a hot (laser/radiofrequency) probe to destroy tumors, Sewell says.

In China, the procedure also received a new application; it was performed for the first time to treat primary tumors of the lung, ideally to cure the cancers. (Primary tumors are nonmetastasized tumors, or tumors from which the cancer has not spread.) Sewell notes that, in the United States at UMC, the procedure only has been used to treat metastasized tumors of the lung that have spread to other parts of the body as a means to prolong life and relieve suffering from incurable cancer.

Since conventional surgery can successfully remove primary tumors of the lung, Sewell can point to no compelling reason in the United States to test whether the CAT scanner procedure also is a cure. He says he is not willing to let a patient forgo conventional surgery here to test the results of the new procedure. But in China, where medical resources are insufficient to treat the overwhelming number of lung cancer patients through conventional means, this new procedure could be a viable means to turn the tide against lung cancer. Vance explains that "only 15% of China's population with lung carcinoma" undergoes conventional surgery for tumor removal.

If indeed the CAT scanner procedure works on primary tumors in China, it could be adopted in the United States and worldwide. Not only are interventional-type lung cancer surgeries less expensive and quicker than conventional surgery, but the patient also has a much shorter recovery period after interventional-type surgeries; they also involve less trauma to the body, Sewell explains.

Sewell performed 10 radiofrequency ablation surgeries on patients in China, while training surgeons there. The 10 surgeries involved five primary lung tumors, three metastasized lung cancers, one fibroid tumor, and one cancer of the liver "so they'd know how to do that procedure, too," Sewell reports.

Vance served as an epidemiological expert on the China trip. He selected lung cancer patients in China to receive the surgery and

set up parameters for studying the medical outcomes.

After being trained by Sewell, China's surgeons immediately began performing the new lung cancer surgeries on both primary and metastasized tumors. "They could eventually perform hundreds of those lung surgeries per month," Sewell estimates. We'll know soon whether this procedure worked to treat primary tumors" if the cancers have not returned, he says.

That's part of phase II of the China project. In four to six weeks, Vance will choose 10 more patients in China to have primary tumors of the lung removed and Sewell will perform their surgeries. 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 ablation with and 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. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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 and other area weather abnormalities from his familiar home at Channel 5, WEWS.

Instead, in retirement he'll spend his days in beautiful Hilton Head, South Carolina, where I have no doubt he'll nurse his golf game and his famed tan. As any Clevelander knows, when it comes to tanning, Don Webster gives George Hamilton a run for his money. My guess is he'll also delight the locals and tourists with his meteorological prowess whenever hurricane watches and warnings are announced, and wax poetic about approaching fronts and the effects of El Niño and La Niña.

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 won't enjoy this observation, but I feel like 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 my childhood home in Cleveland Heights as he emceed Academic Challenge. My hope in mentioning this is that Don will at least feel a little bit old 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 perpetual youth while those of us who grew up watching him are losing our hair.

Don Webster is known to an entire generation of Americans as the host of nationally

syndicated, rock 'n' roll dance show *Upbeat*. Don Webster hosted the show—the second-longest running show of its kind in history—for seven years. He got to meet just about every rock 'n' roll legend along the way. In fact, *Upbeat* photos of Webster with Jerry Lee Lewis and the Outsiders were included in the "My Town" exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland.

In his 35 years with Channel 5, Don Webster did a little bit of everything—from hosting It's Academic and The Ohio Lottery Show to working in management as station manager. But most people know his true love was delivering weather forecasts, which he's done for more than two decades.

We will miss Don Webster and his familiar presence in our lives, but wish the best for him and his lovely wife, Candace, in their new life in Hilton Head.

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 asked 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 attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

HOPE THROUGH CHARACTER 1999 GRADUATION
ADDRESS

(By Brandi Nichole Gaskey)

Mr. Superintendent, friends, family, distinguished guests, faculty, 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. I counts for you and me and every person we will ever come in contact with. It counts in a big way 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 gutsy stuff you're 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 everyone has character, it's 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 other students at Columbine High 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. He concludes that 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 diamonds. If the water was muddy, 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 5:3-4, 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, and junior season all with losing records. I thought of countless hours of practice and endless preseason track workouts and sitting in the teamroom after a loss and doing nothing but crying. But those trials taught us perseverance, and we produced character, and that character gave us hope. Hope for this year in which we 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 so hard and only makes enough money to feed his/her family. Or someone who fails so many times but 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 produce and reveal your character. All of these things will "strengthen your soul, clear your vision, inspire your ambition, and you will achieve success" (Helen Keller). 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 future 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 something that reveals the importance 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, discouraged, and sad. What matter 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 what's on the inside, your inner spirit, it's what you've developed these last 17 or 18 years, what you've persevered through at home and at school, it's your character that counts, and yes, character is 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 in you 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, "Fame 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 business 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 colleague from New Jersey, Congressman BOB FRANKS, for his important contribution 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, when President Emil Constantinescu announced his country's bid for the OSCE Chair in 2001. Romania enjoys U.S. support and has succeeded to build consensus around its candidacy among full OSCE