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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM CANCER CENTER M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute

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## Cancer Prevention Department Unifies and Defines UT MDAH's Prevention Efforts

In September 1979, UT MDAH formally committed itself to what has been designated the institution's fourth mission in the establishment of the Department of Cancer Prevention. Elevating cancer prevention to the level of patient care, research, and education, UT MDAH is in a pioneering role among the nation's cancer centers in its formal commitment to preventing, as well as curing, the disease.

This new emphasis on cancer prevention is, in actuality, a reaffirmation of the legislative mandate that created UT MDAH in 1941. The 47th Texas Legislature defined the role of the state-supported cancer hospital they had just created as the care of Texans with cancer, education and research related to the disease, and activities aimed at the prevention of cancer. This fourth role, until recently, was somewhat overshadowed by the other three, particularly in the flurry of research and treatment breakthroughs that took place in the 1960s and 70s.

Although cancer prevention has always been the ultimate goal of many UT MDAH programs such as those in medical genetics, carcinogenesis, genetic toxicology, and the Cancer Information Service, creation of the Department of Cancer Prevention gave the effort a clearly defined, unified approach. Recognizing the importance of prevention in the control of cancer, UT MDAH led a strong push for support of the concept in the Texas Legislature. Out of this drive for recognition came a \$160,000 appropriation and, more importantly, a statement from the Legislature on the importance of the cancer prevention program. The Department of Cancer Prevention was established, and Guy R. Newell, MD, was selected to head the new program.

Cancer prevention is what Dr Newell has called, "an idea whose time has come," and UT MDAH's shift in emphasis must be viewed against the changing attitudes toward cancer management nationwide. According to Bryant Boutwell, MPH, cancer prevention education specialist, in the last five years comprehensive cancer centers have awakened to the fact that cancer prevention has been overlooked in the nation's drive to eradicate cancer. He explains that the emphasis in oncology has begun to shift for several reasons. In the 1960s and 70s, combination chemotherapy showed such promise and the cure rates for some cancers improved so dramatically that many believed that new chemotherapy regimens would soon overcome the major cancers. However, the dramatic improvement in survival rates in specific types such as leukemias and childhood cancers was not matched in some of the more prevalent forms such as breast, lung, and colon cancer. These are not only among the most serious and common forms of cancer in this country but are also the most closely linked to the environment and individual lifestyle, where prevention is most applicable.

Thus the shift to cancer prevention was born out of the concern for controlling these high-risk cancers and from a public receptive to the idea of health maintenance and disease prevention. The UT MDAH Cancer Prevention program, now *Continued on page 4* 





The Cancer Prevention Department, headed by **Guy R. Newell, MD** (left), focuses its efforts on identifying the causes of cancer, early detection, and public and professional education. Cancer screening (above) is one of the department's

NON-CIRCULATING







Richard H. Jesse, Jr, MD

Noteworthy

Leon Dmochowski, MD

Richard H. Jesse, Jr, MD, head of the Department of Head and Neck Surgery, has been selected by the UT System Board of Regents to be the first recipient of the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Chair for Cancer Treatment and Research. The chair was created by an endowment from the Johnson Foundation, which has been one of UT MDAH's major benefactors since the foundation was established in 1958 by the late Marshall G. Johnson and his wife Lillie, long-time prominent residents of Wharton, Texas. Dr Jesse, who joined the staff of UT MDAH in 1957, is internationally recognized for his innovative surgical techniques used in treating head and neck cancers and for initiating intraarterial infusion therapy in the treatment of these cancers. He has conducted numerous studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of combining radiation therapy and surgery to reduce the debilitating effects that occur when either radical treatment modality is used alone.

The Leukemia Society of America recently honored **Leon Dmochowski**, MD, emeritus head of the Department of Virology, with the first Dr John L. Kenny Award. The award recognizes Dr Dmochowski for his outstanding leadership as chairman of the Leukemia Society's National Patient-Aid Committee, which sets the policies for the Society's 52 chapters in the U.S., and as a member of their National Board of Trustees. It is named in honor



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Published bimonth y by the Department of Scientific Publications, The University of Texas System Cancer Center M.D.Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas 77030. Made possible by a gift from Mrs Harry C. Wiess. of Dr Kenny, the first head of the national committee. Dr Dmochowski has served on the committee since 1966 and has served in a number of other positions with the Society.

Katherine Crosson, MPH, director of Patient Education, has been asked to serve on the National Cancer Institute Office of Cancer Communications Committee, which is responsible for developing pretesting and evaluation methods for the federal government's Health Message Testing Service (HMTS) Working Group for Print Testing. HMTS assesses audience response to health-related radio and television public service announcements to give health planners an indication of the communication effectiveness their message will have on their target audience. Since its beginning in 1977, HMTS has tested more than 30 public service announcements on a variety of health subjects for various federal and state agencies and voluntary health organizations.

> 34th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research

# Molecular Interrelations of Nutrition and Cancer

March 4–6, 1981 Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Texas

Sponsored by The University of Texas System Cancer Center M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute Cosponsored by the National Cancer Institute, and the American Cancer Society, Texas Division, Inc.

> In Cooperation with The University of Texas Health Science Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Cochairpersons: Marilyn S. Arnott,\* PhD, Jan van Eys, MD, PhD, and Yeu-Ming Wang, PhD, Departments of Pediatrics and \*Biology.

As an organization accredited for continuing medical education, The University of Texas System Cancer Center M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute certifies that this medical education offering meets the criteria for 16 credit hours in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award of the American Medical Association. For further information, contact Yeu-Ming Wang, PhD, Department of Pediatrics, M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, 6723 Bertner Avenue, Houston, Texas 77030.

## Library Services Keep Researchers Current

The UT MDAH Research Medical Library, with over 40,000 volumes in its collection and computer links to data bases at the National Library of Medicine (NLM), gives physicians and researchers access to current medical information from around the world. The library has expanded to keep pace with the growing body of medical literature and particularly with the dramatic increase in cancer publications in the years since the passage of the National Cancer Act.

The library has grown as the hospital has, from its modest quarters on the Baker estate in the early years of the hospital to a modern facility directed by librarian Marie Harvin and a full-time staff of 11.

According to Ms Harvin, a reputable library has always been a priority at UT MDAH. Ms Harvin, who has worked at UT MDAH for 14 years, credits R. Lee Clark, MD, president emeritus, with much of the library's success. "Dr Clark is the reason the library is what it is today," she said. "He always kept the library in mind, and he was always very generous with materials out of his office. The library now has a lot of obscure government documents we wouldn't have had otherwise if Dr Clark hadn't provided them."

The services provided by the library are extensive. It subscribes to nearly 1000 journals and will arrange interlibrary loans when needed materials are not available. The monograph and bound journal collection is kept current, with approximately 2700 volumes being acquired last year.

Some of the most important services the library provides are the computerized searches. A computer terminal electronically links the library to the main computer at the NLM in Bethesda, Maryland. With the assistance of a UT MDAH search analyst, an investigator can search the many bibliographical data and abstracts that are stored in the NLM computer. At the end of what is usually a four-day process, the NLM sends a printed bibliography with the authors' names, titles of articles or chapters, and the sources of the published material to the UT MDAH library. Abstracts can be obtained for references published since 1975.

MEDLINE (MEDical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System on-LINE) is the most well known of the data bases. A broadspectrum data base, MEDLINE stores approximately 500,000 references from 3000 medical, nursing, and biomedical journals published in the U.S. and in about 70 foreign countries.

CHEMLINE (CHEMical Dictionary on-LINE) stores information on approximately 240,000 chemical compounds. Stored data include Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry numbers, preferred chemical nomenclature, synonyms, generic and trivial names, molecular formulas, and information pertaining to substances on the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Substances Control Act Inventory Candidate List. A related chemical data base is TOXLINE (TOXicology Information on-LINE), which contains references to published studies on human and animal toxicology, effects of environmental chemicals and pollutants, adverse drug reactions, and analytical methodology.

Two data bases relating specifically to cancer research and treatment are CANCERLIT (CANCER LITerature on-line) and CANCERPROJ (CANCER PROJects on-line). CANCERLIT



Through the library's link with the main computer at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, researchers can obtain extensive printed bibliographies within days.

contains references to more than 125,000 citations taken from approximately 3500 journals and selected books and monographs on all aspects of cancer. CANCERPROJ provides summaries of ongoing cancer projects being conducted around the world.

The UT MDAH library also publishes *Current Articles on Neoplasia*, or the "Gray Sheet," as it is popularly known. The Gray Sheet is a bibliography on cancer and basic sciences related to clinical oncology, and according to Ms Harvin, UT MDAH is one of the few institutions to offer such a service. The Gray Sheet retrieves up to 25,000 citations to cancer literature each year. Approximately 2000 lists are sent out free of charge about every two months, and the service is available to any physician, investigator, or scientific organization who requests it.

For the rare book enthusiast, the library, through a separate fund, regularly purchases books for its rare medical book collection. One of the more unique acquisitions, according to Ms Harvin, is a two-volume collection of the works of Thomas Hodgkin, after whom Hodgkin's disease was named. The library is also proud of its very limited edition compilation of the various works of Vesalius, the first anatomist to produce an anatomy book based on actual human dissection.

Concerning the library's future growth, Ms Harvin sees more and different computerized data bases. "There are right now literally billions of citations stored, some remotely. In 10 to 15 years, machine-based searches will be common practice," she said. "They are the wave of the future."

Local physicians who wish to take advantage of the many services the library has to offer can use their Jesse H. Jones library card, which is available to Harris County physicians. Computerized searches can be obtained for \$5 to \$22, depending upon the type of search needed, the number of years being searched, and whether a standard search or abstracts, as well, are needed. The Gray Sheet will be sent to any physician requesting it. Physicians outside the Houston area who need a computerized search should contact their closest medical school library or the Texas Medical Association library in Austin.



#### Cancer Prevention . . .

Continued from page 1

well into its second year, was created in response to these changing attitudes. Its efforts are based on the indisputable fact that certain types of cancer are preventable through changes in lifestyle and early intervention and that, in principle, if causal factors can be identified, they can be removed or counteracted to prevent the development of cancer.

According to Dr Newell, cancer prevention is many interrelated activities. First tis identifying the causes of cancer at the cellular and societal levels through laboratory studies of animals and epidemiologic studies of humans. Then these findings must be used to intervene in etiologic processes, to remove cancer-causing substances from the environment, if possible, or to encourage persons at risk to undertake lifestyle changes.

Central to these activities are consensus development based on risk-benefit assessment; professional education aimed at equipping health care providers with the information necessary to assist the public in health maintenance; public education designed to inform the public of cancer risks and what lifestyle changes may be necessary to overcome them; consumer motivation aimed at improving the public's response to information; and legislation to remove, when warranted, cancercausing substances from the environment. Dr Newell sees prevention as a complex task of striking a balance between often-conflicting scientific knowledge, the public's sometimes unrealistic expectations, and the political reality of what legislation can and cannot do.

Structurally, the UT MDAH Cancer Prevention program contains the three components Dr Newell contends are essential to any comprehensive prevention program: an investigative component to increase the knowledge base, an early detection and diagnosis section, and an educational arm to disseminate the knowledge gained. The preventive epidemiology section is the department's investigative arm and is responsible for identifying agents and factors associated with the development of specific cancers. Particular attention is paid

### **Texas Nutrition and Health Study**

The preventive epidemiology section of the UT MDAH Department of Cancer Prevention is preparing to launch the pilot study for a proposed three-year study of the relationship between diet and the incidence of colon and breast cancer among Texas' three major ethnic groups. The Texas Nutrition and Health Study w II investigate dietary patterns among whites, blacks, and persons of Spanish origin in three selected areas to determine if the interethnic differences in breast and colon cancer rates can be explained by nutrition.

Incidence statistics for breast and colon cancer in Texas reveal that persons of Spanish origin have the lowest incidence of these cancers, whites the highest, and blacks the middle range. Dietary differences have been suspected as a major factor in these incidence differences. The Texas Nutrition and Health Study will investigate the possible links between breast and colon cancer and diet through two concurrent studies: a general population survey and a case comparison study conducted in the three selected regions of the state. Region I centers around Smith county and Tyler, Region II is the area east of Houston and includes Liberty and Orange counties, and Region III is the McAllen-Brownsville border area.

The pilot study will focus on Region III, where selected subjects will be interviewed in their homes and will be given a 24-hour recall questionnaire to collect data on the foods they currently consume. Information on the subjects' past eating patterns will be obtained through a food frequency questionnaire, comprised of questions on the frequency and quantity of intake during the past year of 100 to 150 food items believed to be representative of the diets under study. Nutritional factors to be explored incluce frequency of consumption of meats, green and yellow vegetables, fruits, and refined products and the subjects' intake of total carbohydrates, fiber, total fat, saturated fat, total protein, and total food energy. Information on other factors associated with the development of breast and colon cancer (family history, socioeconomic status, etc.) will also be

gathered in the survey, and subjects will be questioned on their general health status and habits to determine their use of medications, tobacco, and alcohol.

The three-year study will also include a case comparison study conducted in the three regions. All persons confirmed to have cancer of the breast or colon during the study period will be contacted and asked to participate. These persons will be given the same questionnaire as that developed for the general population survey. Local hospitals, clinics, and private physicians will be asked to assist in locating new cases, and further information will be obtained from the state cancer registry. By combining data from the population survey and the case comparison group, investigators will be able to weigh the relative importance of nutritional factors versus genetic factors by estimating the prevalence of risk factors in the three ethnic groups. Investigators will also compare the individual cases to determine whether the nutritional risk factors are similar for both breast and colon cancer.

The information collected from the pilot study will be used to improve methods for collecting data on nutrition and to help limit the amount of information to be collected in the actual study by streamlining the data collection forms. The pilot study will be used to assess and improve sampling techniques and other proposed study methodology.

Through a study the size and scope of the Texas Nutrition and Health Study, UT MDAH hopes to be able to estimate the degree to which dietary factors, rather than ethnicity, explain the dramatic differences in breast and colon cancer incidence among whites, blacks, and persons of Spanish origin in Texas. Ethnic and international incidence differences for these cancers have been well established for many years. However, the UT MDAH study is the first investigation to address the question of diet versus ethnicity in the cancer incidence among these three groups. to those factors that lend themselves to breaking the etiologic pathways of cancer development, including environmental, biologic, economic, social, and cultural factors that moderate an individual's exposure to an agent. One of preventive epidemiology's first-year programs is the Texas nutrition and health study (see story on page 4).

The health maintenance section is responsible for helping individuals maintain their health by minimizing cancer risks and for the early detection of any cancer that has occurred. Efficient and organized screening programs are central to health maintenance, and this section has the task of disseminating information to nurses and family practice residents who can then set up and conduct screening programs in their own communities.

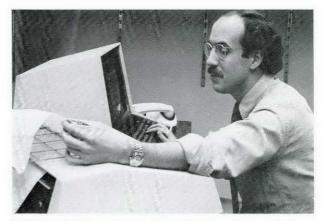
Application of knowledge to specific programs at the community and individual level is the responsibility of the health education section. Health education personnel seek an effective transfer of information to the public in order to promote the kind of health habits that decrease a population's risk of developing specific cancers.

Dr Newell says, "We have had exceptionally good responses to our health education efforts. The public is eager to receive the message of cancer prevention and wishes more than ever to become educated in order to make informed decisions."

According to Dr Newell, the biggest challenge to persons involved in cancer prevention is educating individuals to



The old Prudential Building, now a central administrative and classroom facility of The University of Texas System, was one of Houston's most well-known landmarks.



Keith Lynch, MA, assistant epidemiologist, analyzes preliminary data from the Cancer Prevention Department's Texas Nutrition and Health Study.

assume responsibility for self-discipline and for making changes in their lifestyles. He compares this personal commitment to cancer prevention to taking out a personal health insurance policy. He says, "Payments are made now for the accrual of health benefits years from now. The biggest problem, however, is to convince people to make these short-term health investments for long-term gains."

## Former Prudential Building Renamed

The University of Texas System's 19-story building at 1100 Holcombe Boulevard, the former Prudential Building, has been renamed The University of Texas-Houston Main Building.

Originally the Prudential Insurance Company's Southwest Home Office, The University of Texas-Houston Main Building has been a Houston landmark since 1952. When it was built, the Prudential Building shared the Southwest Houston skyline with the Shamrock Hilton Hotel and very little else. With the huge "Rock of Gibralter" Prudential logo at its top, the building was the architectural focal point of the area, which at that time was still mostly a pine forest dotted with residential homes built on the "outskirts" of town.

Even after the Prudential Building and its surrounding 22.4 acres were purchased by The University of Texas System in 1977, the Prudential name remained. In April 1979, the Prudential name was removed from the building, and now the giant rock has been covered by metal siding. With the official name change, the old Houston landmark is finally catching up with its current function as the central administrative, business, and classroom facility of The University of Texas System Cancer Center and The University of Texas Health Science Center.

As the renovation of the building continues and with the possibility that The University of Texas System insignia will replace the Prudential rock, Houston will soon have a new landmark, one reflective of the many activities now housed within the historic old building.



## **25th Annual Clinical Conference Held**

Approximately 430 persons attended the 25th Annual Clinical Conference, "Gastrointestinal Cancer," held November 5–7 at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston.

The opening session concerned current concepts in gastrointestinal cancer, and the second session focused on discussions of recent advances in gastroesophageal, pancreatic, hepatobiliary and large bowel cancer. The final session covered directions for future research and prospects for control of gastrointestinal cancer.

Marvin M. Romsdahl, MD, PhD, professor of surgery, and program committee cochairperson said, "A substantial number of people indicated approval of the conference format. We began the conference with a focus on basic and applied research, and ended with discussions on the prospects of controlling gastrointestinal cancer. Attendees seemed to like that approach, with presentations and discussions on diagnosis, management, and results of treatment representing the central theme."

According to John R. Stroehlein, MD, chief of gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine, and program committee cochairperson, highlights of the conference included an improved description of premalignant lesions involving the gastrointestinal tract; discussions on the identification of risk factors and the development of immunological tests such as those with oncofetal antigens, which are antigens shared by developmental fetal tissue and malignant tissues; and summaries of important developments of the past decade, including nutritional support, interventional radiology, and the development of fiberoptic endoscopy.

"Technical innovations or new findings that came to light during the conference that had not been previously illustrated were limited;" Dr Stroehlein said, "however, very important contributions known to those in the field but perhaps not to many in the audience were discussed during the presentations concerning interventional radiology, directed aspiration biopsy techniques, air-contrast examinations of the gastrointestinal tract, and fiberoptic endoscopy."

The conference also included discussions on the prevention and control of gastrointestinal cancer. Dr Romsdahl said, "Overall, our management of gastrointestinal cancer is improving, but we are at a plateau. We hope that in the future our emphasis on prevention will decrease the incidence and improve the survival rates of patients with gastrointestinal cancer."

Looking ahead, Dr Stroehlein said that prospects for the control and cure of gastrointestinal cancer within the next decade will probably include improved identification of premalignant processes and risk factors related to gastrointestinal cancer; in vitro screening of anticancer drugs and using multiple cell lines to study these drugs; identification of the metastatic process as it pertains to gastrointestinal cancer, identifying the patients at risk, and developing experimental programs to lessen the chances of metastatis; expanded use of ultrasonography and computerized tomography; and screening efforts that will mos: likely be developed and directed at those who have a greater risk of developing gastrointestinal cancer.

Drs Stroehlein and Romsdahl both said that there is a trend

toward the development of multidisciplinary treatments for early as well as late disease, with cooperation among surgeons, radiotherapists, and chemotherapists.

Concerning the prospects for prevention of gastrointestinal cancer, Dr Stroehlein said that there will probably be an emphasis on identifying factors such as the cancer family syndrome and on more effective surveillance of patients with increased risk.

Dr Romsdahl said that physicians also are recognizing the roles of environment and diet in the development of gastrointestinal cancer. He added that the public is becoming prevention conscious and that today individuals appear more willing than they were previously to modify their lifestyle in an attempt to prevent cancer.

In summarizing the contributions of the conference to the prevention, control, and cure of gastrointestinal cancer, Dr Stroehlein said, "A conference like this represents one of the only formats whereby the state of the art as it pertains to dealing with gastrointestinal cancer can be put into perspective along with new developments and discussion of future research. It is only by having an interdisciplinary program that includes clinical and basic science information that effective communication of observations in different fields can be accomplished and subsequently evaluated."

#### UT Regents Approve Five New Appointments

The University of Texas System Board of Regents recently approved the appointments of five UT MDAH staff members to four professorships and an endowed chair. Emil J Freireich, MD, professor of medicine, was named to the Ruth Harriet Ainsworth Research Chair in Developmental Therapeutics, and T. L. Loo, PhD, professor of developmental therapeutics, Ronald M. Humphrey, PhD, professor of biophysics, J. Leslie Smith, MD, professor of pathology, and Sidney Wallace, MD, professor of radiology, were named to Ashbel Smith Professorships.

Dr Freireich, head of the UT MDAH Department of Developmental Therapeutics and an international leader in chemotherapy and clinical oncology, was appointed to the Ruth Harriet Ainsworth Research Chair because of his many research contributions, many of which have resulted in significant advances in the treatment of leukemia and related diseases. Dr Freireich is the current president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and he has been the recipient of numerous professional awards, including the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award in 1972. The Ruth Harriet Ainsworth Research Chair honors the late Ruth Harriet Ainsworth of Maitland, Florida, who left a major bequest to the Cancer Center in 1972.

The Ashbel Smith Professorships, authorized in 1963 by the UT System Board of Regents, are named in honor of Ashbel Smith, who served as the first chairman of the Board of Regents from 1881 to 1886. Dr Loo, chief of pharmacology in the Department of Developmental Therapeutics, is recognized for his work with anticancer drugs. Dr Humphrey, professor of biophysics and associate director of the Science Park Research Division in Smithville, is known for his investigations of DNA damage and repair in mammalian cells grown in culture. Dr Smith, acting head of the Department of Pathology and an authority on skin lesions and tumors, has received numerous professional awards, including five commendations from the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. Dr Wallace, deputy head of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology, is recognized for his extensive research in intervascular radiology, a procedure in which a catheter is inserted into a tumor to temporarily alter the blood supply to the site and thereby shrink the tumor.



Norah duV. Tapley, MD

#### Norah duV. Tapley Dies

Norah duV. Tapley, MD, died January 4 at the age of 60. As a member of the UT MDAH Department of Radiotherapy since 1963, she was recognized for her research on the treatment of cancer with the electron beam. She authored the book *Clinical Applications of the Electron Beam* and was instrumental in establishing national and international interest in this form of treatment.

In addition to her responsibilities at UT MDAH, Dr Tapley was a member of the consultant staff at Hermann Hospital and had been a professor of radiotherapy at The University of Texas Medical School in Houston since 1975. In Spring 1980, she was elected president-elect of the American Radium Society. She was also a trustee of the American Board of Radiology and a fellow in the American College of Radiology, and she served on the editorial board of several scientific journals.

Dr Tapley was a member of many national medical and scientific societies, including the American Society of Therapeutic Radiologists, the Radiological Society of North America, the American Medical Association, the Society of Chairmen of Academic Radiation Oncology Programs, and the Pan American Medical Association, Inc. She was also a member of local organizations such as the Harris County Medical Society and the Texas Radiological Society.

#### R. Lee Clark Named UT System Professor

For only the third time in the history of The University of Texas System, The University of Texas System Board of Regents has appointed a systemwide professorship. R. Lee Clark, MD, president emeritus of The University of Texas System Cancer Center, was appointed to the prestigious position effective November 1, 1980.

Dr Clark's appointment as University of Texas System Professor of Surgery and Oncology was made in recognition of the many accomplishments he has made in his several decades of service to The University of Texas System Cancer Center. Dr Clark served as the first director of UT MDAH from 1946 until 1968, when he was made president of the hospital. In 1972 he was appointed to the presidency of The University of Texas System Cancer Center, a position he held until his retirement in 1978. At that time he was named president emeritus, a post he continues to hold today.

According to Dr E. D. Walker, chancellor of The University of Texas System, "Dr Clark's contributions and accomplishments are of the quality and magnitude to warrant this special award of the title of System Professor. The recommended designation as System Professor is a most fitting recognition for his long and meritorious service and significant contributions to The University of Texas System and for his never-ending devotion to the elimination of cancer."

# Garth Nicolson Appointed to New Professorship

The University of Texas System Board of Regents has appointed Garth L. Nicolson, PhD, to a new professorship in cancer research. The professorship is named in honor of the late Florence Maude Thomas of Weslaco, Texas, who left a large bequest to The University of Texas System Cancer Center in 1978.

Dr Nicolson joined the UT MDAH staff in June 1980 as the head of the new Department of Tumor Biology. Prior to coming to UT MDAH, he was a faculty member of the University of California at Irvine for five years where he was a professor in the Departments of Physiology and Developmental and Cell Biology. Dr Nicolson also served as director of the oncology program at the University of California at Irvine. He has authored or coauthored over 130 scientific papers.

As an appointee to the Florence Maude Thomas Cancer Research Professorship, Dr Nicolson will continue his investigations of the mechanisms by which cancer spreads, furthering the work for which he has received substantial attention in the scientific community.

Charles A. LeMaistre, MD, president, said of Dr Nicolson's appointment, "We are delighted to have a scientist of Dr Nicolson's stature appointed to the Florence Maude Thomas Cancer Research Professorship. He has conducted an outstanding research program in cellular biology, and the quality of his work has attracted considerable scientific interest and respect."

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Shen-De Li, MD

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Internal Medicine **General Surgery** Internal Medicine Pathology Anesthesiology Pathology Anesthesiology Laboratory Medicine Internal Medicine Internal Medicine **Diagnostic Radiology** Gynecology **Developmental Therapeutics Biomathematics Biomathematics** Internal Medicine Internal Medicine Veterinary Med. & Surgery Pediatrics Biology Head and Neck Surgery **General Surgery Biochemistry and Gynecology** Anesthesiology Anesthesiology **Internal Medicine** 

**Developmental Therapeutics** 

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