



A REPORT TO THE PHYSICIANS OF TEXAS

newsletter



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM CANCER CENTER

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M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute

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Cyclotron Will Provide New Research and Treatment Opportunities

With the installation of its new cyclotron, UT MDAH will be the first hospital in the U.S. with the capability of delivering fast neutron therapy to cancer patients on-site. Nationwide there are only eight or nine hospital-type cyclotrons in operation, according to Peter Almond, PhD, Department of Physics, and these machines are used for isotope production only and do not have the capability of producing fast neutrons.

The cyclotron is a cooperative venture between two branches of The University of Texas System—UT MDAH and The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The lengthy installation process is already underway at UT MDAH, and once the cyclotron is fully operational, patients and physicians from the entire Houston-Galveston area will have ready access to the treatment and research opportunities afforded by the sophisticated machine. These include the ability to produce positron-emitting radionuclides on-site to aid in disease diagnosis and, in particular, the production of fast neutrons for treating certain forms of cancer.

In fast neutron therapy, a cyclotron is used to produce high-energy neutrons for therapy by bombarding a beryllium target with deuterons or protons. Fast neutron therapy has been used experimentally to improve the local control rate of massive cancer, particularly in lesions that yield low control rates with photon irradiation. The technique was used to treat cancer soon after the cyclotron's invention in the 1930s. However, early research into the treatment possibilities of fast neutron therapy was interrupted by World War II. Interest in the technique was rekindled in Great Britain in the 1950s, and extensive experimentation in the years since has shown the late effects of treatment to be well tolerated. Today, fast neutron therapy, although still experimental, is used regularly at UT MDAH, based on the theory that fast neutrons may be more efficient in radiotherapy for bulky neoplasms than are conventional techniques.

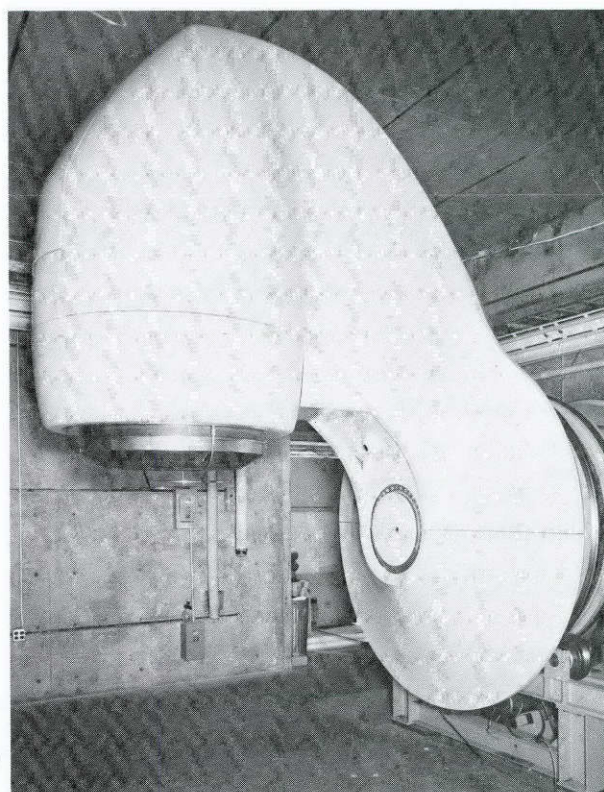
UT MDAH has been treating patients with fast neutron therapy since the early 1970s, but until now the hospital did not have its own facility. Previously, through a cooperative agreement with

Texas A & M University, UT MDAH had access to the Texas A & M variable energy cyclotron (TAMVEC) at specified times. UT MDAH medical, technical, and nursing staff traveled to Texas A & M to treat from 10 to 15 patients two to four times a week.

Although the arrangement with Texas A & M was a workable and beneficial one, according to Dr Almond, there are distinct advantages to UT MDAH's having its own cyclotron. "The cooperative agreement was a good one and we were well treated by A & M," he says, "but the element of control was absent. We were an outside user of the machine, and although the clinical work had priority, we had to wait in line like everyone else to do research."

Another advantage of the UT MDAH cyclotron, according to Dr Almond, is that whereas the Texas A & M machine was built for basic science research, the UT MDAH cyclotron is designed

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A compact cyclotron, like the one shown here, is currently being installed in a specially constructed cyclotron facility at UT MDAH. The cyclotron, isocentric treatment arm, and other components arrived from California in March, and workmen began the lengthy installation of the sophisticated equipment. The cyclotron center is expected to be ready for patient treatment and research by late fall.

Conference Focuses on Nursing and Cooperation Among Disciplines in Pediatric Oncology

The Sixth Annual Mental Health Conference, "Nursing, Mental Health, Medicine: Intersections in Child Health Care Perspectives," held April 9-11 at Houston's Marriott Hotel at the Astrodome, was planned with the following objectives: to discuss the profession of nursing in relation to other health care disciplines, to consider the nurse's role in the care of the chronically ill child, and to acquaint health care professionals with one another's disciplines.

"Nursing is changing," said Marilyn Hockenberry, RN, MS, PNP, a nurse practitioner at UTMDAH and co-coordinator of the conference. "This conference was concerned with how nurses work together with other disciplines toward common goals. It is important that nurses express the way they see things and the way they see themselves. Also, much can be learned from members of other disciplines as they express how the nurse is seen. Here in pediatric oncology we use a team approach that works very well in the treatment of children. There is a growing appreciation of one another's roles by the nurse, the physician, and the mental health professional."

In her discussion of the intersections among disciplines, Ms Hockenberry noted that the nursing profession is struggling for "a respectable position among other disciplines," and that in a setting in which chronic illness is treated, all professions have the opportunity to contribute in their own way to the care of the child. In this setting the nurse "has the opportunity to convey the importance of nursing as a distinct discipline," she said.

Donna Copeland, PhD, director of the mental health division in the Department of Pediatrics and co-coordinator of the conference, believes another value of the conference was its contribution to the concept of the "total treatment of the child." With this concept in mind, one purpose of the conference was to bring together representatives from three major disciplines in health care to discuss their relationships, with particular focus

given to the nurse's point of view. According to Dr Copeland, the goal was to understand better the problems that exist in a comprehensive care setting, to share ideas about how to resolve these problems, and, ultimately, to improve patient care and staff members' understanding of one another.

The conference was divided into four half-day segments, each considering the issues from a different perspective. The first session examined the nurse within her profession through discussions on the nurse's identity and relationships with colleagues and family. The second session concerned the nurse as an individual, emphasizing the relevance of personal qualities and personal history to the professional role. The third

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The University of Texas System Cancer
Center M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor
Institute

Department of Urology

Presents

The Sixth Annual Urologic Oncology Seminar

In Association With Division of Urology
The University of Texas Medical School at
Houston and Department of Urology
Baylor College of Medicine

**August 26-29, 1981
Shamrock Hilton Hotel
Houston, Texas**

This program will provide a comprehensive review of the various urologic malignancies and other aspects of urologic oncology including management of stomas and sexual rehabilitation of the urologic cancer patient. Emphasis will be placed on a multidisciplinary approach with specific attention given to surgical techniques and current chemotherapy programs.

For registration information, write to Mary J. Perdue, The University of Texas System Cancer Center M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, 1400 Houston Main Building, 6723 Bertner Drive, Houston, Texas 77030.

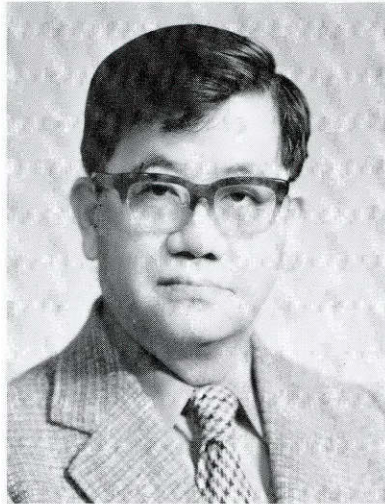
newsletter

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Two scientists were honored at the 34th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research. The Wilson S. Stone Memorial Award was presented to Michael Rush Lerner, MD, PhD (far right), of Yale University. Takashi Sugimura, MD (near right), director of Japan's National Cancer Center Research Institute, accepted the Ernst W. Bertner Memorial Award's bronze medallion for his distinguished contributions to cancer research.



Scientists Investigate the Links Between Nutrition and Cancer at 34th Symposium

Thirty-one scientists spoke at the 34th Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, "Molecular Interrelations of Nutrition and Cancer," held March 4-6 at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston. In all, 505 attended the symposium from all parts of the world.

This year's symposium explored the possible linkage between nutrition and human cancer. "We want to see if there is a firm link instead of just a suggested link," said Yeu-Ming Wang, PhD, Department of Pediatrics, one of the co-chairpersons of the symposium. "When such links are investigated," Dr Wang said, "one looks at the cellular, the animal, and the human levels. A conclusion one could draw from this symposium is that there is a link up to the animal level in the effect of nutrition on tumor formation. Beyond this, more evidence is needed."

The opening session was chaired by Frederick F. Becker, MD, vice president for research, followed by six sessions covering specific aspects of the effect of nutrition on cancer. The subjects and session chairpersons were "Nutritional Components in the Etiology of Cancer," Guy R. Newell, MD, Department of Cancer Prevention; "Nutrition and Physiological Effects in the Cancer-Bearing Host," Seoras D. Morrison, PhD, National Cancer Institute; "Energy Metabolism in Tumor Cells and Nutritional Sources of Calories," George Weber, MD, Indiana University School of Medicine; "Nutritional Modulation of Cell Proliferation," Benjamin Drewinko, MD, PhD, Department of Laboratory Medicine; "Nutritional Modulation of Cell Transformation," Takashi Sugimura, MD, National Cancer Center Research Institute of Japan; and "Nutrient Requirements and Modulation of Carcinogenesis," Marilyn S. Arnott, PhD, Department of Carcinogenetics. Each session began with an overview, followed by papers on specific research. The summary session was chaired by James M. Bowen, PhD, associate vice president for research.

Takashi Sugimura, MD, director of the National Cancer Center Research Institute of Japan and professor in the

Department of Molecular Oncology at the Institute of Medical Science of Tokyo University, received the Ernst W. Bertner Memorial Award. The Bertner Award, established in 1950 in honor of UT MDAH's acting director from 1942-1946, is conferred each year on a distinguished cancer researcher. The award was an acknowledgement of Dr Sugimura's work on the molecular causes of stomach cancer, his investigations relating mutagens and carcinogens, and his identification of environmental mutagens. Dr Sugimura presented evidence at the symposium that amino acids are sometimes converted to mutagens through normal cooking procedures. Evidence has not yet been obtained to demonstrate whether the resultant compounds are carcinogenic or mutagenic in man.

A native of Tokyo, Dr Sugimura received his medical degree from the Tokyo University School of Medicine. In 1957 he received his medical science degree from the same university. He has worked extensively as a researcher in both Japan and the United States. He is a recipient of the Prize of Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Fund (1969), the Prize of Takeda Medical Foundation (1974), the Prize of Fujihara Foundation (1975), and, in 1976, the Japanese Academy Prize and Imperial Prize. In 1978 he was awarded the highest order the Emperor of Japan can bestow, the Order of Cultural Merits of the Japanese Government. He has served on many international councils, and from 1974 to 1978 was vice president of the International Union Against Cancer. He is the author or co-author of more than 300 scientific publications.

Michael Rush Lerner, MD, PhD, of Yale University, was awarded the 10th annual Wilson S. Stone Memorial Award for his major contributions to the study of gene expression and small nuclear RNA protein complexes. The Stone Award is presented each year to a student in the biomedical sciences in the United States as recognition of outstanding achievement.

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Cyclotron ...

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specifically for cancer therapy. The special building that houses the cyclotron has been designed completely as a clinical facility, he says. Located in the basement of the Gimbel Building, the cyclotron facility is equipped with physicians' offices, a nurses' station, two examination rooms, two neutron therapy treatment rooms, two control rooms, storage areas, an isotope production room, and offices for the many personnel who will operate the machine and conduct the treatment. The cyclotron area is reinforced with seven-foot walls.

The cyclotron facility will require both a clinical staff of physicians and nurses and a technical staff of at least seven technical personnel. On the technical side, there will be one cyclotron administrator or supervisor who will oversee the entire facility. A cyclotron engineer will supervise the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the machine, and two cyclotron operators will actually operate the controls. In addition, two full-time physicists will measure the neutron beam, check for proper dose, and ensure the cyclotron's precise operation. Finally a health physicist trained in radiation safety will monitor the area to keep the facility safe and ensure that all safety measures are strictly enforced to protect patients and personnel. Additional highly trained personnel will be required to produce radioisotopes.

According to David H. Hussey, MD, Department of Radiotherapy, the cyclotron primarily will be used to provide fast neutron therapy to patients with head and neck cancers and cancer of the uterine cervix, although essentially any large tumor that does not have distant metastases or the likelihood of developing these metastases can be treated with fast neutrons. He says that the best results have been obtained in cancers of the head and neck and soft tissue sarcomas.

Theoretically, the advantages of fast neutron therapy over conventional radiotherapy relate to large tumors' resistance to radiation, Dr Hussey explains. He says that it is believed that poorly oxygenated cells are more difficult to kill with conventional radiation than are well-oxygenated cells, and since tumors tend to grow away from the blood supply, failure with large tumors may result from these hypoxic cells' resistance to radiation. According to Dr Hussey, this problem of resistance does not disappear with the use of fast neutrons, but with neutrons the oxygen content of cells is not as important as it is with conventional radiotherapy. Although fast neutron therapy is a relatively new area of radiation research and is still very much in the experimental stage, Dr Hussey says that it is potentially an "exciting area."

The new UT MDAH cyclotron offers yet another exciting prospect, this one in nuclear medicine. The cyclotron also can be used to produce positron-emitting radionuclides. According to Howard J. Glenn, PhD, Section of Nuclear Medicine, the cyclotron will produce specific, extremely short-lived radioisotopes, some of which decay as rapidly as in two minutes.

These radionuclides are unavailable from other sources, Dr Glenn explains, and have a unique type of decay that allows quantitative biochemistry to be performed within the body in selected locations, in addition to more routine procedures. With these isotopes, for example, the glucose metabolism of the heart or brain can be determined, Dr Glenn says, and indications are that the same will be true for tumors. Because positron-emitting radionuclides decay so rapidly and must be produced on-site, the installation of the UT MDAH cyclotron will open new areas for research in nuclear medicine and biochemistry, as well as in radiotherapy.

Two New Books Published

Genes, Chromosomes, and Neoplasia, a 541-page compilation of the proceedings of UT MDAH's 1980 Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, is now available from Raven Press (1140 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, \$49.50). Edited by Frances E. Arrighi, PhD, Potu N. Rao, PhD, and Elton Stubblefield, PhD, the volume reviews the current understanding of the alterations in normal genetic material that occur prior to and as a consequence of cancer. Major topics are chromatin and chromosome structure, the *src* gene, gene expression, and the genetics of human cancer. Within these major headings are discussions on the history and future of somatic cell genetics and cytogenetics; the *src* viral locus and its normal homologue, the *sarc* locus; genetically altered mitochondrial DNA; gene amplification and methylation's role in controlling it; chromosome changes in cells from particular cancers; and how certain human populations provide insight into the relationship between genetics and cancer.

The second edition of the *Impact of Cancer on Texas* has been published by the Interagency Center for Cancer Prevention and Control, a cooperative program of the Texas Department of Health and The University of Texas System Cancer Center M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. The 1980 edition updates the information provided in the first edition: an analysis of population distribution, composition, and trends in Texas; an assessment of cancer mortality by site, age, and special groups; and information on available resources for treating the cancer patient. New to this edition are data on 11 additional cancer sites and sections highlighting childhood cancers and cancers with a high incidence in the Spanish-surnamed population. As with the 1978 edition, the new *Impact of Cancer on Texas* brings together the available information on cancer, the population it affects, and the major resources available for its control to help assess the cancer problem in Texas and establish a sound base for planning cancer control programs. The book is available through the office of the vice president for resource planning and evaluation.

UT MDAH Announces New Referral Guide

At the request of many physicians, UT MDAH has updated its list of hospital staff members to contact to discuss a cancer-related problem. Staff physicians at the department head and section chief levels have been listed by their areas of specialization. Please note that telephone numbers are subject to change at any time. Should you have trouble contacting anyone at UT MDAH, please call the main hospital switchboard at (713) 792-2121 for assistance.

A physician wishing to arrange an appointment for his or her patient should telephone the office of New Patient Referrals, toll-free, at 1-800-392-1611.

CLINICAL ADMINISTRATION

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President
The University of Texas System Cancer Center (713) 792-6000
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Executive Vice President (713) 792-3200
Conrad, Fred G., MD
Vice President for Patient Care (713) 792-6170
Moreton, Robert D., MD
Vice President for Patient Affairs (713) 792-3211
Ainsworth, Joseph T., MD
Associate Vice President for Patient Care (713) 792-6170

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Chiu, Wen J., MD (713) 792-6911

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Lichtiger, Benjamin, MD (713) 792-2644

BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTATION

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Burgess, Michael A., MBBS (713) 792-2921

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Gutterman, Jordan U., MD (713) 792-2676

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Wallace, Sidney, MD (713) 792-2714
Lindell, Marvin M., Jr, MD (713) 792-2715
Libshitz, Herman I., MD (713) 792-6220

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ENDOCRINOLOGY

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GASTROENTEROLOGY

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Romsdahl, Marvin M., MD, PhD (713) 792-6936
McBride, Charles M., MD (713) 792-6940

GENITOURINARY TUMORS

Samuels, Melvin L., MD (713) 792-2830

GYNECOLOGY

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Wharton, J. Taylor, MD (713) 792-2770

HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

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Goepfert, Helmuth, MD (713) 792-6920

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Bodey, Gerald P., Sr, MD (713) 792-6830
Bolivar, Ricardo, MD (713) 792-2921

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Drewinko, Benjamin, MD, PhD (713) 792-6325

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Conrad, Fred G., MD (713) 792-6170

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Gallager, H. Steven, MD (713) 792-3130
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PSYCHIATRY

Adams, Frank S., MD (713) 792-7546

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Lindberg, Robert D., MD (713) 792-3409

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THORACIC MEDICINE

Valdivieso, Manuel, MD (713) 792-7033

THORACIC SURGERY

Mountain, Clifton F., MD (713) 792-6932

UROLOGY

Johnson, Douglas E., MD (713) 792-3252
von Eschenbach, Andrew C., MD (713) 792-3250

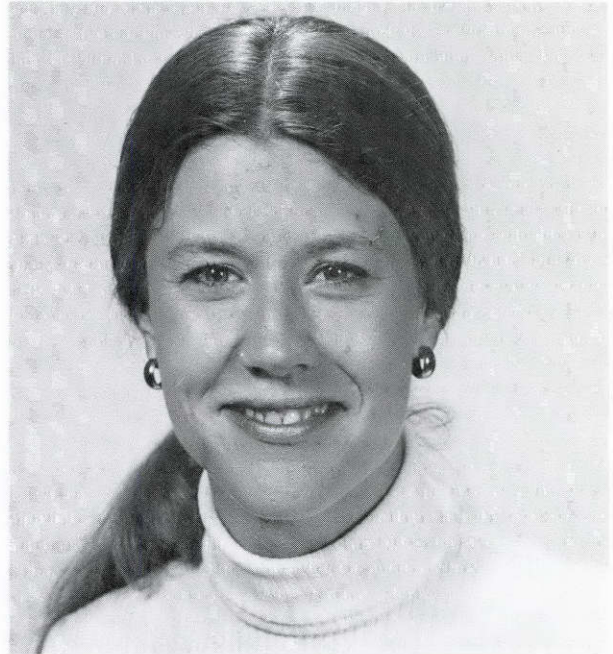
Louise C. Strong Appointed to Killam Professorship

Louise Connally Strong, MD, associate professor of medical genetics, biology, and pediatrics, has been appointed to the newly established Sue and Radcliffe Killam Professorship.

The professorship was formed through a \$200,000 endowment from Mr and Mrs Radcliffe Killam of Laredo. Mr Killam is an independent oil producer and rancher and has served on the University Cancer Foundation Board of Visitors for over 10 years. The Killam family's gift will further UT MDAH's professional excellence program and is designed to support younger members of the staff whose work has shown particular promise.

According to Charles A. LeMaistre, MD, president, the Sue and Radcliffe Killam Professorship is intended to "encourage the growth and development of younger physicians and scientists whose work in cancer therapy, research, and prevention warrants special consideration." The professorship is limited to a five-year term and is rotated among recipients working in patient care, research, and prevention to provide equitable support to these three areas of endeavor at UT MDAH.

Dr Strong was chosen to be the first incumbent of the new professorship for her work in medical genetics. Speaking of Dr Strong's work, Dr LeMaistre said, "Her research into this important area may one day help explain the mysteries of the malignant disease process."



Louise C. Strong, MD

Nationwide Hotline Offers Oncology Nursing Expertise

Through a nurse-to-nurse oncology consultation telephone service in operation at UT MDAH, nurses from all over the country can obtain answers to questions on all areas of cancer nursing. The nurses' hotline is a cooperative effort of the Department of Nursing and the Cancer Information Service at UT MDAH.

The need for a nationwide hotline to give nurses immediate access to cancer center nursing experts was recognized several years ago. The clinical nurse specialist group at UT MDAH was receiving numerous calls every month from nurses who needed assistance in cancer patient care.

Doreen Levitt, RN, clinical nurse specialist and coordinator of the program, says that the hotline allows nurses with a specific question to discuss the case with UT MDAH nurses experienced in daily cancer patient care. Some of the many topics that may be discussed in the nurse-to-nurse consultation are inpatient and outpatient chemotherapy, enterostomal therapy, hyperalimentation, immunotherapy, infusion therapy, infection control, pediatric oncology, protected environments, perfusion, rehabilitation, management of surgery patients, staff development, discharge planning, critical care, and patient teaching.

A nurse who has a question can call the hotline number, and a volunteer will record the name and phone number and the information requested. Then a nurse experienced in that particular area will phone the caller within 24 hours to discuss the problem. Texas nurses can reach the consultation service weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by dialing 1-800-392-2041. Nurses who live within the continental United States can call collect at (713) 792-3259.

Nursing Conference . . .

Continued from page 2

session was devoted to the nurse's relationship with members of other disciplines, focusing on how relationships are defined, how professionals view one another, and how persons can adapt to changing concepts. Ethical and moral issues were discussed in the final session. Here, the relationships of society, law, and religion to nursing were considered in light of ethical and legal responsibilities and value conflicts.

In her address on ethical and moral issues, Sister Clara Ternes, ASC, RN, MA, of the Institute of Religion, cited a specific case history of a child with terminal cancer to address the broad ethical problems involved in nursing. According to Sister Clara, nurses must maintain a delicate balance in their work: "They must be professional enough to be helpful and personal enough to be human."

In the closing summary of the conference, Jan van Eys, MD, PhD, head of the Department of Pediatrics and the formulator of the mental health conference series, stated that professional identity is a "shield or mask" to be used as a tool to help the sick child. Yet, he continued, care that comes through being available as a person is the best that can be offered. According to Dr van Eys, one of the purposes of the mental health conferences is to provide a setting for dialogue among professions. "We need conferences such as these to rediscover each other's totality of being, instead of just seeing the professional identity," he said. "It gives us a chance to observe and respect one another's knowledge and skill."

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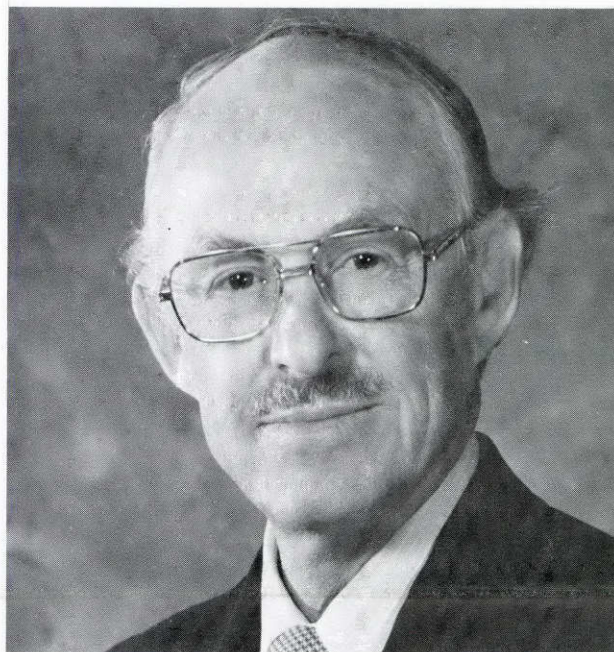
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New Professorship Named in Honor of R. Lee Clark

A new professorship has been created in honor of R. Lee Clark, MD, president emeritus of The University of Texas System Cancer Center. The R. Lee Clark Professorship was made possible through a \$200,000 endowment from the Rogers Bros. Foundation, Inc., of Beaumont.

The Rogers Bros. Foundation, Inc. was established in 1961 by four brothers—Ben J. Rogers, Sol J. Rogers, Victor J. Rogers, and N. J. Rogers—all of Beaumont. The Foundation supports numerous health-care, religious, welfare, educational, youth agency, and community funds. Ben J. Rogers, president of the foundation, has served on the University Cancer Foundation Board of Visitors since 1978. The Board of Visitors is comprised of civic leaders from around the state who devote time and effort to fund raising for the UT Cancer Center.

This latest honor bestowed on Dr Clark follows closely after his appointment to a systemwide professorship as UT System Professor of Surgery and Oncology on November 1, 1980. Dr Clark has served UT MDAH and the UT Cancer Center for over 30 years, from his appointment as the hospital's first director in 1946 to his appointment as president of the hospital in 1968 and then president of the UT Cancer Center in 1972. After his retirement in 1978, Dr Clark was named president emeritus of the UT Cancer Center.



R. Lee Clark, MD

Symposium . . .

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Dr Lerner was graduated magna cum laude with distinction in chemistry with a bachelor's degree in 1974 from the University of Pennsylvania. During that same year he received the American Chemical Society Award. He began graduate school at Yale with a fellowship in the Medical Scientist Training Program and completed his MD and PhD degrees with a Charles E. Culpeper Fellowship in the spring of 1981. He is the author of nine scientific papers.

Co-chairpersons of the symposium were Jan van Eys, MD, PhD, Department of Pediatrics, Dr Arnott, and Dr Wang. The American Cancer Society, Texas Division, Inc., and the National Cancer Institute co-sponsored the event.

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