

News

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235 (214)688-3404

October 13, 1980

CONTACT: Ann Harrell
Office: 214/688-3404
Home: 214/369-2695

* * * Transplant coordination is
the wave of the future

NOTE TO EDITORS: Pictures are available of Baxter with the building in progress and various transplant programs. See enclosed releases.

DALLAS--Coordination of transplant facilities is the wave of the future. And The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas is riding the crest, says Dr. Charles Baxter, UTHSCD professor of surgery and head of the Parkland Memorial Hospital Burn Center, one of only three such federally-designated facilities in the country.

Baxter, who has been pioneering the transplantation of human skin for the past seven years, will head the new UTHSCD Transplant Center, which will open in June, 1981. Working closely with the surgeon will be Dr. Charles Petty, professor of pathology and director of the Dallas County Forensic Science Institute. The new Transplant Center will be a cooperative venture with the Dallas Lions Tissue and Sight Foundation.

The Skin transplantation program at the Dallas health science center is the largest in the world in terms of patient volume and was the first with the capacity to supply other centers with needed skin in emergency situations. The Lions eye effort has been involved in the transplantation of many thousands of corneas and procedures with eye tissue, and the kidney transplant program at UTHSCD has handled the transplantation of 492 kidneys since 1964.

Work through the Transplant Center will include the transplantation of skin for large burn and other trauma wounds; corneas and tissue from the sclera, or white of the eye; joints for patients with certain joint and cartilage problems; and small bones for otolaryngology, or ear, research. Besides these areas, future plans call for tissue-typing to be done in the Transplant Center for the successful kidney transplant program at UTHSCD and Parkland, as well as the newer and more experimental pancreas transplants through the department of surgery.

Approximately two-thirds of one of the two new floors being added to the existing Forensic Science Facility, now under construction on the UTHSCD campus, will be used for transplant activities. This location will prove especially convenient because the county facility adjoins both health science center buildings and Parkland Memorial Hospital. Besides offices, research laboratories, organ storage areas and tissue-typing, research services will be included in the approximately 3,500 square feet encompassing the Transplant Center.

"For the first time transplant services will be located in one central area, leading to greater cooperation between medical departments, a higher rate of efficiency in operation and an opportunity for all areas of transplantation to expand this valuable work," says Baxter. "This kind of cooperative project is definitely the wave of the future."

Assisting Baxter and Petty in administering the new Transplant Center will be UTHSCD faculty associate Ellen Heck. Heck has been working for several years as coordinator of the Lions Sight and Tissue Foundation, which has been a cooperative effort with the UTHSCD surgery department and the burn center. Heck will act as transplant coordinator in the combined program.

--over--

"One of the important keys to the coordination of the Transplant Center," says Heck, "is the vital role in transplantation played by the sophisticated tissue-typing services provided by Dr. Peter Stastny and his staff." Stastny, professor of internal medicine at UTHSCD, is a noted researcher in transplant immunology.

A benefit golf tournament is being held Tuesday October 14 at Canyon Creek Country Club for the new Transplant Center. Profits from the PGE Pro-Am will go toward equipping the new Transplant Center. Among the tournament headliners will be Corning Glassware spokeswoman and top J.S. women's golfer Judy Rankin. Other big names include Debbie Austin; Jerilyn Britz, Mary Dwyer, Vickie Fergon, Kathy Linney, Susie McAllister, Debbie Massey, Kathy Postlewaite, Myra Van Hoose, Donna White, Kathy Whitworth and Peggy Conley. Area pros include Kathy McMullen of Carrollton and Jo Ann Washam of Dallas.

###