

UT News

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****Heck gets major award

DALLAS -- Ellen Heck, administrative director in the Transplant Resources and Services Center and faculty associate in surgery at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, was awarded the Curtis P. Artz Award by the American Burn Association at its recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The Artz award is the highest recognition given to non-M.D. members by the association.

Heck has worked with Dr. Charles Baxter for the last 13 years in developing life-saving techniques for burn patients and establishing the UT facility as one of the top tissue-transplant centers in the country. The Transplant Resources and Services Center is involved in the collection, storage and distribution of human tissues for transplant. The Dallas program furnishes corneas, skin, cartilage and bones to faculty members at the school, private physicians in the community and transplant surgeons in other areas of the country.

Heck began her professional career in 1961 as a medical technologist. In addition to the 26 papers and five training films that she has co-authored, she has actively participated in committee activities of the ABA, becoming the at-large representative of its board of directors in 1982. Heck is incoming president of the Skin Council of the American Association of Tissue Banks and has served as secretary and member of the constitution, by-laws, standards and certification committees of that organization. Currently she is chairman of the technicians' committee and a member of the medical standards committee of the Eye Bank Association of America, of which she is also an officer. She has recently been elected to membership in Sigma Xi, scientific research society.

On three occasions Heck has received the At-Large Award for the outstanding paper presented at the annual ABA meetings. Her 1974 paper dealt with oxygen consumption and oxidative enzyme (NADPH) metabolism of leukocytes from thermally injured patients. The 1984 award-winning paper, which was on the development of the composite skin graft, contributed significantly to the knowledge in the field of wound coverage, said ABA officials.

The researcher/administrator has a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University and a master's from Central Michigan University. She is also registered as a medical technologist.

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NOTE: The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Allied Health Sciences.