

UPDATE

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DR. JAMES WILLERSON APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF TEXAS HEART INSTITUTE

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Heart Institute has announced the appointment of James T. Willerson, M.D., as president of the Texas Heart Institute effective August 1, 2008. The Board has also appointed Denton A. Cooley, M.D., as president emeritus of the Texas Heart Institute (THI).

Dr. Cooley will remain surgeon-in-chief of THI and chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

Dr. Willerson was appointed president-elect of THI in 2004. He is also the medical director and co-director of the Cullen Cardiovascular Research Laboratories at THI. He is the former chief of Car-



See Dr. Willerson's vision for THI in the coming years on page 6.

diology at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital and he is an adjunct professor of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has been the president

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DONOR HIGHLIGHT

THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC.

The Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital has received a \$5 million grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc. The funds will help the non-profit Texas Heart Institute in its dual missions of groundbreaking research and education in cardiovascular medicine. Since its inception in 1951, The Brown Foundation, Inc. has awarded more than \$1.1 billion in grants through June, 2007. Of these funds, approximately 80% were awarded within the State of Texas with special emphasis on the City of Houston. The Foundation distributes funds for public charitable purposes, principally for education, the arts and community service. We salute and thank the trustees of The Brown Foundation. We are honored to be the beneficiary of their generosity.

IN MEMORIAM MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY



The Texas Heart Institute family was deeply saddened by the recent loss of one of the world's greatest physicians, Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., chancellor emeritus of Baylor College of Medicine. Last fall, Dr. DeBakey was inducted as an honorary member into the Denton A. Cooley Cardiovascular Surgical Society.

Just a few months ago, Dr. DeBakey reciprocated the honor by inducting Dr. Cooley, a long-time professional rival, into the Michael E. DeBakey Surgical Society. Around the same time, Dr. DeBakey accepted an invitation to be

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TEXAS HEART INSTITUTE ELECTS NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND APPOINTS HONORARY TRUSTEES

The Texas Heart Institute (THI) at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (SLEH) is pleased to announce that Mr. Charles Butt, Mr. David Grimes, Mr. Michael Linn and Mr. Christopher Sarofim have been elected to the Board of Trustees. The role of the Board of Trustees is to help establish an environment that will allow scientists, physicians and support personnel to work at their highest capacity, and to build informed and steady support for these activities.



CHARLES BUTT

Mr. Charles Butt became president of the H.E. Butt Grocery Company in 1971. Today, he is chairman and CEO of H-E-B, having grown the business from sales of \$250 million in 1971 to over \$15 billion today. He is a member of several academic and medical boards including the development boards of the UT Health Science Centers in Houston and San Antonio, the UT Chancellor's Council Executive Committee and the M.D. Anderson University Cancer Foundation Board of Visitors. Mr. Butt is also a board member of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the National Trust Council of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Mr. David Grimes, who served as an Honorary Trustee prior to being elected to the Board of Trustees, is the Principal of Grimes Energy Company, President of Grimes Land and Exploration Company, President of Grimes Holdings, Inc., and Managing Partner of Trifecta Oil and Gas L.P. He is the Chairman of the Development Board of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. He also serves on the Board of Visitors of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and on the Advisory Board of the Draper Fisher Jurvetson Mercury Fund.



DAVID GRIMES



MICHAEL LINN

Mr. Michael Linn is the Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Linn Energy, LLC. Mr. Linn currently sits on the National Petroleum Council and the American Exploration and Production Council. He is a member of the Board of National Association of Manufacturers. He is a member of the oil and gas industry's 25 Year Club. He was recently appointed as Texas Representative for Legal and Regulatory Affairs Committee of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. Mr. Linn

serves on the board of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, as well as the boards of Small Steps Nurturing Center and Youth Development Center. In addition, he is the Chairman of the Corporate Committee for the Capital Campaign of Texas Children's Hospital.



CHRISTOPHER SAROFIM

Mr. Christopher B. Sarofim is President of Sarofim International Management and a member of Faye Sarofim & Company's Investment Committee. Mr. Sarofim has worked with his father, Faye Sarofim, for 20 years. Before joining Faye Sarofim & Co., Christopher worked for Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York as an analyst in their investment banking division. Mr. Sarofim serves on the board of trustees of The Brown Foundation, Inc., the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, St. George's School, and serves on the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Foundation Board of Visitors. Mr. Sarofim formerly served on the boards of The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, The Alley Theatre, and the Asia Society, Texas.

The Board of Trustees is also pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Sheldon Erikson, Mr. Jack Hunt and Mr. Drayton McLane, Jr. as Honorary Trustees. They join Messrs. Dan Duncan, The Honorable James A. Baker, III, Bob McNair, John Nau III, Hakeem Olajuwon and Anthony Petrello. Honorary Trustees serve as important advisors, lending their expertise and experience to advance the mission of THI at SLEH.



SHELDON ERIKSON

Mr. Sheldon Erikson has held executive positions in the petroleum industry for more than 25 years. Mr. Erikson is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors for Cameron. He has been a director since 1995, and has been Chairman since 1996. He also served as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1995 through January 2007, and was Chief Executive Officer from January 2007 through March 2008. Mr. Erikson also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Petroleum Council, the American Petroleum Institute, and the Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, of which he is a past Chairman of the Board.

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Mr. Jack Hunt has managed large, complex land based, multi-business resource companies involved in livestock production, farming, mineral exploration and production and real estate. Mr. Hunt has been President/CEO of King Ranch in Texas since 1995. He has also held executive positions with the Tejon Ranch in California and the Jay Taylor Family Companies in Amarillo. Mr. Hunt is the Director of Consolidated Citrus, the nation's largest citrus grower. He is Vice Chairman of the Texas Water Development Board, first appointed by then Governor Bush and reappointed in 2005 to a second six-year term by Governor Rick Perry. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Baylor College of Medicine.

Mr. Drayton McLane, Jr., serves as chairman of the McLane Group and is the CEO of the Houston Astros baseball club. During his tenure, the native Texan has propelled the McLane Company into a multibillion dollar company, achieving an average growth rate of 30 percent per year. Mr. McLane, who also serves as Chairman and CEO of the Houston Astros, is in his 16th season with that organization. His philosophy since purchasing the team in 1993 is to bring a World Series championship to Houston and to make a positive difference in the community. He serves on numerous boards, including the Greater Houston Partnership, Baylor College of Medicine and M.D.



Anderson Cancer Center. He also serves on the Executive Committee of Major League Baseball. He has been honored by the Boy Scouts of America, NASA, Texas Business Hall of Fame and Texas A&M University, among others. ♥

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

ANNA JETTON AND JASON STEGEMANN

Anna and Jason will marry on October 4, 2008. Guests at their wedding will receive a card to inform them that Anna and Jason have made a gift to the Texas Heart Institute in their honor. Their selfless gesture demonstrates their adoration for Anna's father, who has benefited from the Texas Heart Institute's pioneering research efforts. We commend Anna and Jason, and thank them for including the Texas Heart Institute in this wonderful tribute.

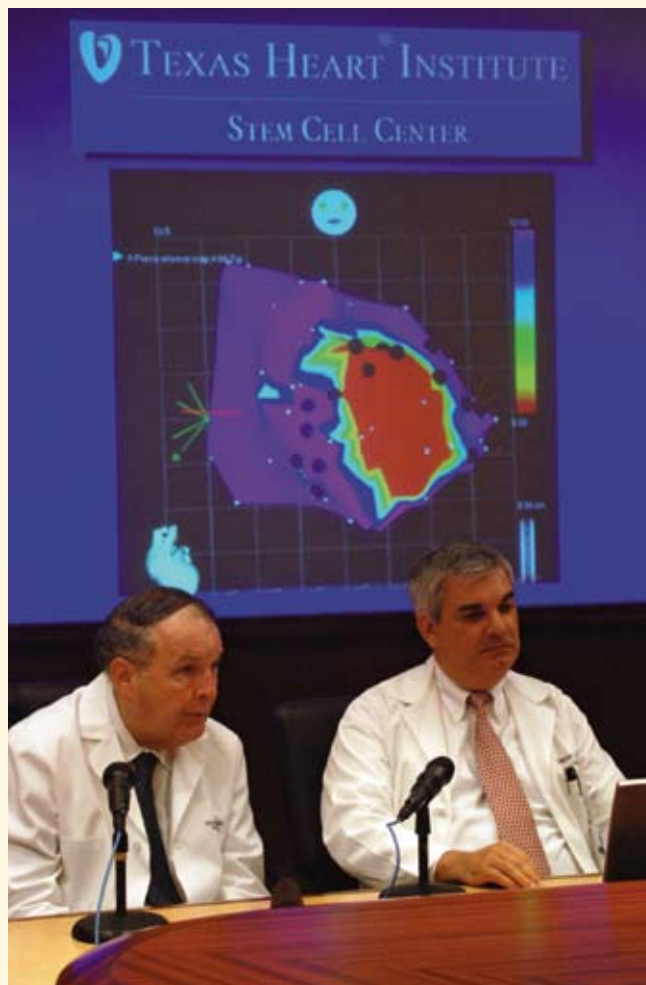
TEXAS HEART® INSTITUTE AT ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL INITIATES FIRST CLINICAL TRIAL IN THE WORLD TO TREAT A HEART ATTACK PATIENT WITH A SPECIAL STEM CELL TYPE

Physician scientists at the Texas Heart Institute (THI) at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital announced they have begun the world's first clinical trial to treat heart attack patients with a special type of stem cell to promote better healing and to prevent congestive heart failure, which many patients develop following a heart attack.

Stem cells are "generic" cells that can regenerate themselves and develop into specialized cells, such as cardiac cells. In stem cell therapy, stem cells are typically removed from another part of the patient's body—usually the bone marrow or the blood, both of which contain a variety of stem cell types. The cells are then transplanted into the heart, where they can lead to the growth of new heart muscle and blood vessels to replace damaged tissues.

The special stem cells used in this study, known as mesenchymal precursor stem cells, are allogenic, meaning that they have been taken from the bone marrow of a healthy donor and grown in cultures to provide a plentiful supply. These cells, which are injected directly into the heart with a special catheter, appear not to provoke rejection by the recipient or cause inflammation.

"Our pre-clinical trials have established that ten days after the heart attack is the optimal time to give this treatment. The heart is still inflamed in the days just after a heart attack. If we wait too late, the heart will have too much scar tissue and its ability to pump will already be compromised," said Emerson Perin, M.D., Ph.D. Dr. Perin is the director of the Texas Heart Institute's Stem Cell Center and he was recently appointed Director of Clinical Research for Cardiovascular Medicine at THI.



This randomized Phase I trial will include 25 patients in three phases in which the patient receives 25, 75 or 150 million stem cells. Physicians use a 3-D imaging technology which maps the electrical and mechanical function of the left ventricle, the main pumping chamber of the heart. The stem cells are injected into damaged but still viable areas of the heart muscle.

"Our challenge remains to identify the very best types of stem cells, refine our delivery techniques, and establish the most effective doses of stem cells. We also have much work

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DONOR HIGHLIGHT

GRACIELA T. ZABALETA

Mrs. Zabaleta of San Juan, Puerto Rico, who has been a consistent donor to the Texas Heart Institute since 1990, recently made her annual contribution.

In an accompanying note, she wrote... *So glad to be able to contribute and help the Texas Heart Institute.*

Mrs. Zabaleta, your donations for 18 consecutive years demonstrates the true meaning of caring.

Please note that we will use your gift wisely to remove the threat of cardiovascular disease.

LOOKING FORWARD

BY DR. JAMES T. WILLERSON

It is a great privilege, and at the same time, a great responsibility for me to follow Dr. Denton Cooley as President of the Texas Heart Institute (THI). Dr. Cooley's pioneering and leadership contributions to cardiovascular surgery, his creation in 1962 of an institution dedicated to research and education in cardiovascular disease, the Number 1 killer of men and women of our time worldwide, and his recruitment of an outstanding team have resulted in an institution that has been consistently ranked in the top 10 among all similar centers in the United States consecutively for the past 18 years. Even more importantly, physician/scientists at Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital (THI at SLEH) have made major contributions to both the treatment and prevention of heart and vascular disease during this sustained period of time. Dr. Denton Cooley is now the President Emeritus of THI, and he will continue to be by our side and a very important advisor and conscience in everything we do going forward.

THI has enjoyed a long and close relationship with SLEH that has allowed thousands of patients from all walks of life, the young and the old, the poor and the affluent, and people of the world to have their serious heart and vascular problems to be treated, and often cured. We shall build very strongly on that partnership as we go forward with the new patient care tower to be built having the name of THI at SLEH. Our presentations, grant requests, and papers will have this same designation, i.e. THI at SLEH. We shall also work very hard to have each partner benefit from the successes of the other, to address our problems, and to celebrate our successes together.

It is my personal commitment to work with physicians, educators, scientists, patients, and supporters to enable THI at SLEH to make seminal contributions in discovery, education, and treatment that relieve suffering and improve the health of the patients we see, and ultimately to prevent cardiovascular disease worldwide. This commitment must include enhanced educational, discovery, and service efforts through the strengthening of our programs in each of these areas; recruiting and training of exceptionally



JAMES T. WILLERSON, M.D.

talented physicians, scientists, and cardiovascular care givers; strengthening local collaborations in the Texas Medical Center and the State of Texas; forging new international relationships, especially in the Middle East, Latin America, and China; enhancing the raising of philanthropic dollars and increasing our grant support for research and education; and broadening and enhancing our THI Board membership. I hope we can strengthen our interactions with The University of Texas System and its component institutions as well.

I promise that I shall be very involved as a leader, encourager, promoter, recruiter, and sometimes creator in each of the areas mentioned above. I shall also remain very personally involved in the care of all of my present patients and of those who seek my help for their cardiovascular care in the future. All of the research, education, and development of new procedures and medical strategies that occur at THI at SLEH have as their primary purpose the relief of pain and symptoms that prevent any person from living his or her life productively or result in unexpected loss of life from cardiovascular disease. I look forward to our partnership in helping the people of the world who have this dominant medical problem of our time, cardiovascular disease. ♥

THI LAUNCHES NEW NEW PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE



Ever wish you could email your health questions to a highly qualified physician and actually get a response? Now you can. In keeping with its mission to educate and share knowledge with the public, the Texas Heart Institute has launched a new service, www.askatexasheartdoctor.org.

Anyone with Internet access can go to the website and ask a question about preventing, diagnosing or treating cardiovascular disease. Participants are encouraged to ask questions whose answers will benefit the public in general, rather than questions about the individual's specific health condition. Answers to appropriate questions received will be posted on the website and links to more information on the THI website will be provided.

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

GLAXOSMITHKLINE

An important component of the Texas Heart Institute's mission is continuing education programs for heart specialists. The Texas Heart Institute counts on the support of companies to present these programs.

On July 25-26, 2008, the *8th Texas Update in Cardiovascular Advancements* was held at the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital—The Denton A. Cooley Building. We wish to thank GlaxoSmithKline for its generous support of this important program.

The idea for this new service is the concept of Dr. Mehdi Razavi, a cardiologist who specializes in cardiac electrophysiology. "The Internet is a powerful communication tool and we look forward to empowering the public with accurate, current information in an accessible way. Most people already use the Internet to search for health related information. There's no reason why they shouldn't get precise information from an expert source," said Dr. Razavi. ♥

DR. BUD FRAZIER RECEIVES RAY C. FISH AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

Bud Frazier, M.D., has received the Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement from the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. Dr. Frazier is chief of Cardiopulmonary Transplantation at the Texas Heart Institute, co-director of the Institute's Cardiovascular Research Laboratories and director of Surgical Research. He is chief of the Transplant Service at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. His academic appointments include professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, clinical associate professor of Surgery at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and clinical professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.



From left, Dr. Denton Cooley presents Dr. Bud Frazier with the Ray C. Fish Award for Scientific Achievement.

For the past 40 years, Dr. Frazier has been a pioneer in the treatment of severe heart failure and in the fields of heart transplantation and of mechanical devices that may be used either to substitute for or to assist the pumping action of the human heart. His interest and work with mechanical assist devices began while he was still a medical student at Baylor College of Medicine, under the direction of Dr. Michael DeBakey.

During his 25 years as director of the division of cardiopulmonary transplantation, Dr. Frazier has guided the service into one of the top transplantation programs in the world. He and his team have performed more than 1,000 heart transplants and implanted more than 800 heart assist devices. His reputation as a cardiothoracic surgeon attracts patients from all over the world to the Texas Heart Institute for

treatment. Other surgeons also seek his expertise and often invite him to consult on operations and program development at their institutions.

Ray C. Fish was a leading figure in the natural gas industry and a philanthropist. Mr. Fish believed in the American dream of "opportunity for success." The Ray C. Fish Foundation was established so that others might be encouraged to broaden man's self-knowledge and to keep the American dream alive. After its founder's death from heart disease, the Fish Foundation granted \$5 million to make the Texas Heart Institute a reality. For this reason, the Institute's highest professional award is given in honor of this extraordinary man. The award recognizes those whose innovations have made significant contributions to cardiovascular medicine and surgery. ♥

Your gifts, from March 1, 2008 through July 31, 2008, enabled us to take new initiatives in research, to provide educational opportunities for young heart specialists, and to teach people how to live healthier lives. We salute your generosity and loyalty, which allow us to achieve vital margins of excellence and to advance the programs against cardiovascular disease.

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Mrs. Stain of Lufkin, Texas, sent a check in the amount of \$500.00. In an accompanying note to Dr. Denton A. Cooley, she wrote that her husband had been operated on by Dr. Cooley in 1964. She reminded him that the Strains had very little money at that time and she believed that they owed him \$500.00. Not surprisingly, Dr. Cooley asked that she make a gift to the Texas Heart Institute. Mrs. Strain, you are to be commended for your noble action, and, Dr. Cooley, thank you for always looking after the Texas Heart Institute.

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MR. AND MRS. KIRBY G. GERLAND

Not long ago, Mr. and Mrs. Gerland established an endowment, asking that interest income be directed to help the promising work of Dr. O.H. Frazier and his team.

In a letter that accompanied the check, Mr. Gerland wrote... *I hope that this small donation might help in some way to help Dr. Frazier continue his research so that other people can have a chance at enjoying life as I have.* Mr. Gerland, permit us to correct one statement and reaffirm another. Your contribution was far from small, and you may rest assured that Dr. Frazier and his associates will apply their very best efforts to help other victims of cardiovascular disease.

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Our goal is to express our gratitude to all those named in this issue of Texas Heart Institute Update and to list each of our valued contributors accurately. Despite our best efforts, however, errors sometimes occur. In that event, we would appreciate being notified at (832) 355-3792.

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THE COOLEY CONNECTION

Similar to *The Cooley Circle*, *The Cooley Connection* was created to strengthen the Texas Heart Institute's progress against cardiovascular disease and to introduce succeeding generations of leaders—those 45 years of age and younger—to the Institute. Members of *The Cooley Connection* contribute \$1,500 annually.

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TEXAS HEART INSTITUTE AT ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL APPOINTS NEW RESEARCH DIRECTOR



From left, Richard Dixon, Ph.D., Peter Vanderslice, Ph.D., Ronald Biediger, Ph.D., Charles Gundlach and Darren Woodside, Ph.D. comprise the core research team of the Wafic Said Molecular Cardiology Research Laboratories at THI.

The Texas Heart Institute (THI) at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital has appointed Richard Dixon, Ph.D., as director of the Wafic Said Molecular Cardiology Research Laboratories. Dr. Dixon and his staff come to THI from Encysive Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Houston drug-discovery and development company that he co-founded with Dr. James Willerson, president and medical director of THI, and others. Prior to founding Encysive, Dr. Dixon was the Director and Head, Department of Molecular Biology, Merck, Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories.

Dr. Dixon is bringing his research team to THI. Team members include Ronald Biediger, Ph.D, Peter Vanderslice, Ph.D., Darren Woodside, Ph.D., Charles Gundlach and Amy Ray. THI employees Qi Liu and Toya Terry will also join Dr. Dixon's team.

The main focus of the team's research is how different cell types, for example inflammatory cells and stem cells, move within various body tissues. They are interested in the receptors which are present on the surface of these cells that determine how cells are directed to various locations in the body, such as the heart, the abdomen or the lungs. They are interested in which signals are produced that cause the cells to move, direct them within tissues, and cause them to stop and localize.



Some of these receptors include intracellular adhesion molecules, such as integrins, which are directly involved in intracellular contact, as well as chemokine receptors which react to hormones that regulate cell movement. Once the relevant receptors are identified, the scientists use various techniques to block their activity. This research team has focused on chemical blockers which can be used as drugs to modulate the receptor activity in pre-clinical models and eventually in patients. The team's ultimate hope for this type of research is to learn how to control stem cells which are already present within an individual to repair tissue damaged by trauma or disease. ♥

A PLACE OF HONOR



Dr. Denton A. Cooley was recently honored by the unveiling of The Denton A. Cooley Plaza at the entrance to St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. The site was donated by the family of Morton Cohn, a member of the THI Board of Trustees.

TEXAS HEART® INSTITUTE AT ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL INITIATES *(continued from page 5)*

to do in understanding the molecular mechanisms by which stem cells differentiate into specific organs and tissue," said James Willerson, M.D., president and medical director of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's.

For more information about this clinical trial or others underway at the Texas Heart Institute, contact the Stem Cell Center at 866-924-7836 or email stemcell@heart.thi.tmc.edu. There is also information on all the trials at www.texasheart.org. ♥

TEXAS HEART® INSTITUTE RECEIVES \$2.8 MILLION GRANT TO DEVELOP UNIQUE TOTAL ARTIFICIAL HEART



A \$2.8 million National Institutes of Health grant to The Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital will fund development of a novel "pulse-less" total artificial heart. Unlike previous heart-assist pumps that duplicated the pulse of the natural heart, this experimental device uses two small MicroMed® DeBakey VADs (ventricular-assist devices) that pump blood continuously.

One of the two VADs will be dedicated to circulation of blood throughout the body and the other to blood flow to and from the lungs. Developing a way to design the pumps to automatically respond to the body's changing needs for blood – such as during exercise – will be a key aim of the program. Continuous flow pumps are smaller, simpler and more robust than their large, complicated pulsatile predecessors.

The principal investigator of the study is Bud Frazier, M.D., chief of Cardiopulmonary Transplantation, chief of the Center for Cardiac Support and director of Surgical Research at the Texas Heart Institute. He is chief of the Transplant Service at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

The Texas Heart Institute has been a leader in

developing heart-assist devices, including those with a continuous flow. Heart-assist devices aid or take the place of the left ventricle, the heart's major pumping chamber. Another small continuous flow pump, the HeartMate II, has undergone extensive testing for this purpose at the Texas Heart Institute. Previous work using such continuous flow pumps showed that they could keep people alive for years, even without a perceptible pulse.

The grant was awarded under the NIH Bioengineering Research Partnership, a special program to encourage collaborations among medical and engineering experts. Dr. Frazier will lead with a collaborative team from THI, MicroMed Cardiovascular, Inc., University of Houston, and Rice University. ♥

TEXAS HEART® INSTITUTE AT ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL HOSPITAL
RANKED AMONG NATION'S TOP HEART CENTERS FOR
18TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

In its annual survey of "America's Best Hospitals," *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital as one of the in the top 10 centers for heart and heart surgery in the United States for the 18th consecutive year. St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital was also ranked among the top 50 hospitals in eight other major areas of care.

"For 45 years, the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's has maintained a strong commitment to excellence in research, education and patient care," said Denton A. Cooley, MD, president emeritus and surgeon-in-chief of the Texas Heart Institute, and chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. "To receive this honor consistently is extremely gratifying."

Ranked at number seven this year, the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's is the only heart center in Houston and the Southwest to be listed among the top ten in its category by the magazine.

"The physicians, scientists and staff have led the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's to a position of global leadership through their efforts to prevent and treat cardiovascular disease. Their passion, vision and dedication are encouraged by this continued recognition," said James T. Willerson, MD, president and medical director of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's.

Dr. Willerson also noted that, on a 1 to 100 scale, the Texas Heart Institute is within three points of being in the top five heart centers.



The annual rankings, determined through criteria such as surgical volume, ratio of registered nurses to beds, number of medical and surgical discharges and recognition by peers, are designed to assist people in seeking the highest level of skills in diagnosing, treating or managing difficult medical conditions.

For its rankings, U.S. News evaluated 5,453 hospitals. Only 170 of those met the standard of being among the best in one or more specialties. The magazine

evaluated hard data, engaged in physician surveys and considered patient outcomes, and then recognized the 50 top scoring hospitals in each category it reviewed. For more information about the rankings, log on to U.S. News Online, www.usnews.com/besthospitals. ♥

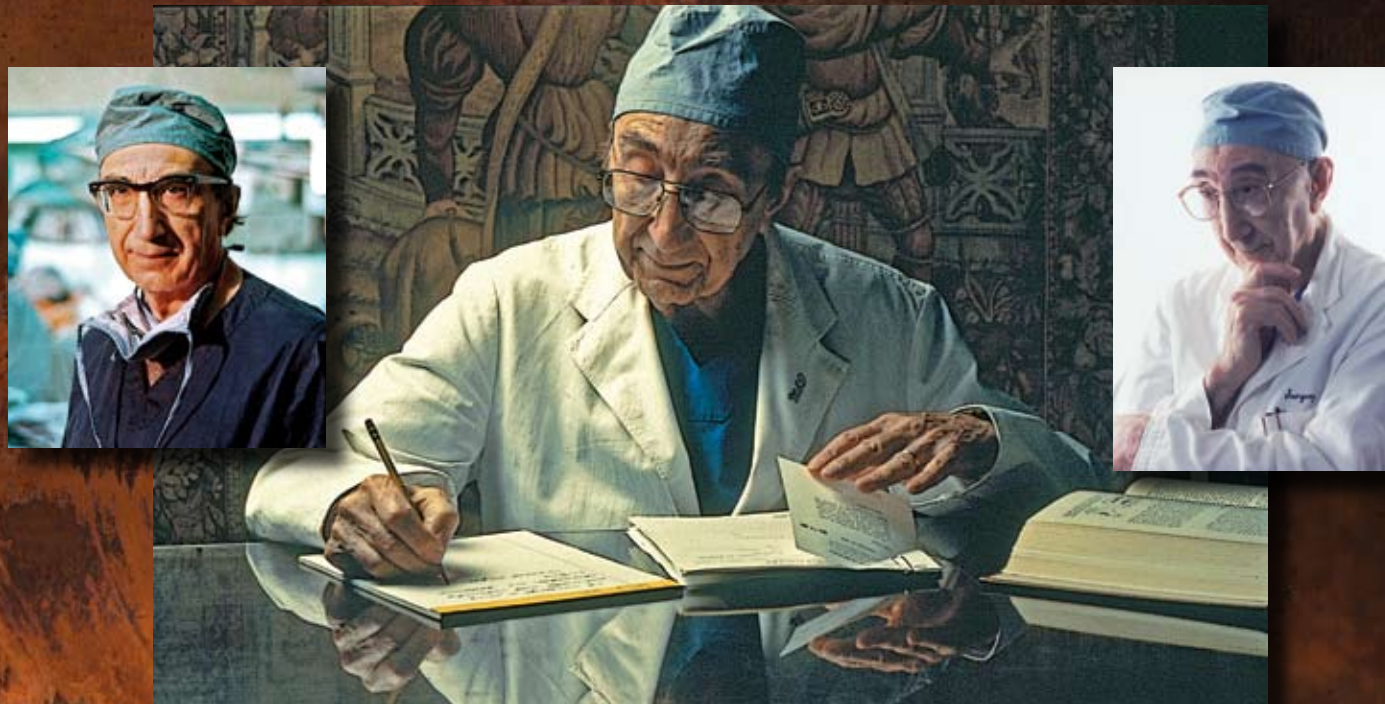
DONOR HIGHLIGHT

THE RAY C. FISH FOUNDATION

In the 1960's, a \$5 million gift from Mr. Ray C. Fish enabled the founding of the Texas Heart Institute. His heirs, through the Ray C. Fish Foundation have honored his legacy by providing a steady and impressive level of philanthropy to sustain and strengthen the work of the Texas Heart Institute. Recently, the trustees of the Ray C. Fish Foundation made a \$250,000 commitment for adult stem cell research and therapy. We are deeply grateful.

REMEMBERING A LEGEND

POSTHUMOUS PRESENTATION OF DENTON A. COOLEY LEADERSHIP AWARD TO DR. MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY PLANNED



Dr. Michael E. DeBakey had accepted our invitation to become the 14th recipient of The Denton A. Cooley Leadership Award on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. Save-the-date cards had just been mailed when his unfortunate death occurred.

Dr. Cooley's desire to honor Dr. DeBakey remained unchanged, and with Mrs. DeBakey's blessing, we plan to present the award posthumously on the original date of Wednesday, January 21, 2009.

For more information, please call (832) 355-3792.

IN MEMORIAM MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY *(continued from cover)*

the recipient of the Denton A. Cooley Leadership Award, which was announced for a January, 2009 date. Now, Dr. DeBakey will be honored posthumously with the Leadership Award on January 21, 2009.

As expected, many of THI's physician leaders were called upon by news media to reflect on Dr. DeBakey's amazing life and career following his death.

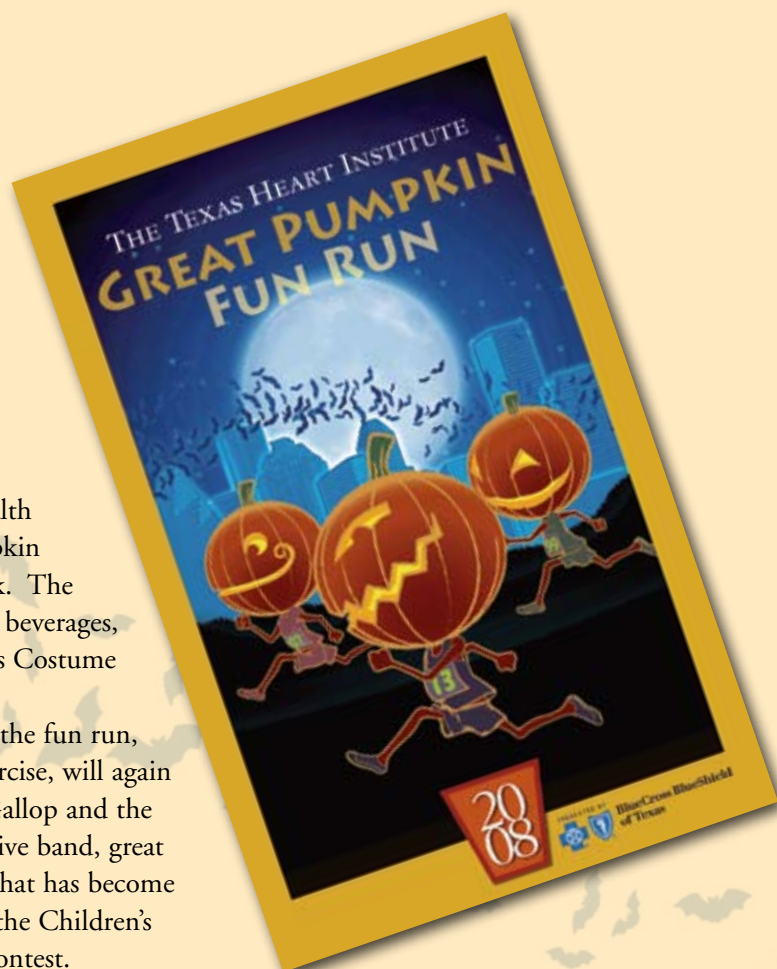
"There's no question he was one of the pioneers of cardiovascular surgery in the last half of the 20th century," said Denton A. Cooley, M.D., president emeritus and surgeon-in-chief of the Texas Heart Institute. "He was one of my primary mentors and any success that I have enjoyed can be traced back to his counsel and interest in my career. One of his greatest legacies is that he influenced so many students to pursue careers in cardiovascular surgery." ♥

2008 GREAT PUMPKIN FUN RUN

It was heartening to learn that the Great Pumpkin—he of the large round head, the spindly legs and the crooked smile—has agreed to race the streets of Houston for the Texas Heart Institute's Great Pumpkin Fun Run, scheduled for Saturday morning, October 25, 2008.

The event, designed to promote cardiovascular health through exercise, will again feature the 5K Great Pumpkin Dash, the 3K Goblin Gallop and the 1K Witches Walk. The post-race party will include a live band, great food and beverages, and what has become a seasonal favorite, the Children's Costume Contest.

Presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, the fun run, designed to promote cardiovascular health through exercise, will again feature the 5K Great Pumpkin Dash, the 3K Goblin Gallop and the 1K Witches Walk. The post-race party will include a live band, great food and beverages, and what has become a seasonal favorite, the Children's Costume Contest.



Hermann Square (Smith & Walker - across from Tranquility Park)

Saturday, October 25, 8:00 a.m.

Participants also enjoy exciting door prizes and runners' awards, as well as wonderful long-sleeve T-shirts.

Sponsors to date include Bank of Houston, Cici's Pizza, Coca-Cola, Continental Airlines, Frankel Building Group, Dian and Doug Huddle, Kickerillo Companies, Joe Levit Family Foundation, Pin Oak Interests, Porter & Hedges, L.L.P., Sports Authority, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, Texas Children's Heart Center, Tony's and Watermill Express.

The easiest way to register is online at www.texasheart.org. There, you will find information about registering in person; dates, times and locations of packet pickup; and more. A race registration form can also be found on the accompanying page.

This is the 13th Great Pumpkin Fun Run. If you suffer from Triskaidephobia, an irrational fear of anything associated with the number 13, look at what is emblazoned on the Great Pumpkin's chest. Your participation in this event will help you overcome your fear. ♥

Race Application 2008 www.texasheart.org

Categories of Participation (Check one)

5K Run 3K Jog/Walk 1K Walk Wheelchair

Entry Form

Name _____
First Last

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Sex: M F Age (as of race day) _____

Day Phone _____ Emergency Phone _____

T-Shirt Size

Adult Sizes (all long-sleeved) S M L XL

- You will receive a large T-shirt if you fail to mark a size or do not pick up your packet by race day.
- To guarantee shirt size, entries must be received 10 days prior to race day

Children Sizes (all short-sleeved) 10-12 14-16

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check Number: _____

(All wheels, except those on wheelchairs, will be prohibited in the 5K race)

Waiver Statement Must Be Signed

In consideration of acceptance of this entry, I waive and release all claims for myself and heirs against the Texas Heart Institute, the Texas Heart Institute Foundation, St. Luke's Episcopal Health System, USA Track & Field, the City of Houston, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas*, and any sponsor and all officials and volunteers of the Great Pumpkin Fun Run for any illness or injury that may directly or indirectly result from participation in the 2008 Great Pumpkin Fun Run. I further state that I have trained and am in proper physical condition to participate in this race. **The entry is invalid unless signed by entrant. If entrant is under 18 years of age, parent or guardian must sign.**

 Entrant's Signature

 Date

*A Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company, an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Deadlines & Fees

Categories of Participation	* Postmarked by 10/18/08	Late Registration	Race Day
\$ _____ 5K	\$20	\$22	\$25
\$ _____ 3K	\$20	\$22	\$25
\$ _____ 1K	\$15	\$15	\$15
\$ _____ 65 & Over	\$10	\$10	\$10
\$ _____ Wheelchair	\$10	\$10	\$10

HARRA members receive \$2 discounts. HARRA # _____

Total \$ _____ Check # _____ **Make Check Payable To: Texas Heart Institute**

I regret that I am unable to participate, but enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____, made payable to the Texas Heart Institute.

RACE DAY REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 7:15 A.M. SHARP.



of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston since 2001 and was named the Alkek-Williams Distinguished Professor there at the same time.

“I first met Jim Willerson as a young teenager. Even then, his drive, intelligence and determination were evident. Those abilities, along with a dedication to academics and scientific research, allowed him to excel as one of the finest cardiologists in the world today. I am fully confident he will bring to THI the same ambitious, successful leadership as he gave to the UT Health Science Center these past several years,” said Dr. Cooley.

Dr. Willerson has gained international renown for his research in identifying vulnerable plaques which can lead to heart attacks or strokes. He and his research partner, Emerson Perin, M.D. hold a global leadership

position in adult stem cell therapies for cardiovascular diseases. Last year, THI was named as one of five centers selected by the National Institutes of Health to study stem cell treatments for patients with cardiovascular disease. Dr. Willerson is the Principal Investigator for the studies at THI.

“My vision is to establish THI as the preeminent cardiovascular center in the world – a place where outstanding students, scientists and physicians come to learn, discover and practice, where patients come when they have heart and vascular diseases, and where new discoveries related to genetic and proteomic risk of cardiovascular diseases are made,” said Dr. Willerson.

Dr. Willerson’s reputation as a cardiologist has grown exponentially over the last 20 years as he vigorously pursued research and education in cardiovascular medicine.

The International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences recently described him as “possibly the world’s leading cardiologist. The Academy has honored Dr. Willerson with the Medal of Merit for Distinguished Achievements in Cardiovascular Sciences for his lifetime of exceptional accomplishments. Just this month Dr. Willerson was elected President-Elect of the Academy, based on worldwide voting of Fellows of the Academy.

“The Board of Trustees believes Dr. Willerson is uniquely suited for this leadership position. His considerable talents, his extraordinary commitment to research and education, and his unparalleled dedication bode well for our Heart Institute,” said Meredith Long, Chairman of the THI Board of Trustees. ♥



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U P D A T E

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