

■ BUMC researcher successfully vaccinates some patients against lung cancer

John Nemunaitis, MD, oncologist and researcher at the Mary Crowley Medical Research Center at BUMC, has developed a vaccine that suppresses lung cancer in some patients. Results of the clinical trial were published in the February 18, 2004, edition of *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* (see abstract on page 236).

In Dr. Nemunaitis' research trial, 43 patients with early and advanced-stage non-small cell lung cancer were injected with the vaccine, called GVAX. Vaccines were administered every 2 weeks for a total of 3 to 6 vaccinations. Three patients with advanced-stage lung cancer experienced complete remission of their disease lasting 6 months, 18 months, and ongoing at 22 months. For two of these patients, prior treatment with chemotherapy had failed. One patient experienced a 30% decrease in the size of a lung nodule, and for 7 patients, their disease remained stable and did not progress for a period ranging from almost 5 months to more than 28 months.

"These results are very promising for patients with non-small cell lung cancer, which is frequently resistant to chemotherapy," Dr. Nemunaitis said. "We believe this study is the first time immune therapy has been the sole treatment associated with complete and durable regression of metastatic non-small cell lung cancer lesions, particularly those lasting more than 1 year, as observed in two patients in our study."

Dr. Nemunaitis conducted his research through the Baylor Research Institute and the Mary Crowley Medical Research Center at Baylor. The center is one of the largest patient treatment sites for gene therapy in the country.

■ BUMC achieves nursing magnet status

On January 12, 2004, BUMC received the Magnet Award for "Excellence in Nursing Services" from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. BUMC joins a small group of <2% of hospitals nationwide to have achieved this coveted designation.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center granted the designation after BUMC demonstrated that it met or exceeded standards in 14 areas of nursing leadership, clinical practice,

ACCOLADES

Baylor Health Care System Chief Executive Officer **Joel Allison** received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Baylor University Alumni Association on January 24, 2004. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in religion and journalism from Baylor in 1970. Mr. Allison also received an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Dallas Baptist University on February 25, 2004; the university honored him for his outstanding ministry work through hospital administration.

John H. Ansohn, MD, an emergency services physician on staff at Baylor Grapevine, was chosen by *Fort Worth Business Press* as a "health care hero" for his work overseeing medical direction, quality assurance, and continuing education for emergency medical services providers in Northeast Tarrant and Denton Counties. He also received the Texas Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Medical Director of the Year Award in 2003.

W. Mark Armstrong, MD, the Baylor Professor of Internal Medicine, was elected governor-elect for the Texas Northern Region of the American College of Physicians. He will be governor-elect for 1 year, working closely with Governor F. David Winter, Jr., MD, and will assume the governor role in April 2005 for a 4-year term.

The Dallas Historical Society honored **John Fordtran, MD**, and **Catalina Garcia, MD**, with 2003 Awards for Excellence in Community Service. Dr. Fordtran, a researcher in BUMC's gastroenterology physiology laboratory and former chief of internal medicine, received the Health/Sciences award. Dr. Garcia, an anesthesiologist and leader in women's issues, received the Volunteer Leadership award.

Gary N. Gross, MD, director of the Division of Allergy and Immunology at BUMC, was recognized for distinguished service at the 2003 annual meeting of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.

Marlon F. Levy, MD, surgical director of transplantation at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, has been named presi-

dent of the Dallas chapter of the American Diabetes Association. He will serve a 2-year term. Among Dr. Levy's research efforts is islet cell transplantation; investigators believe the islet cells will anchor in the liver, where they will receive blood and nutrients and potentially begin producing insulin for patients with diabetes. Dr. Levy also performs pancreas transplants.

Warren E. Lichliter, MD, a colon and rectal surgeon at BUMC, is currently serving as president of the Dallas County Medical Society, the third-largest county medical society in the USA.

James M. Rich, CRNA, MA, of BUMC's Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, received the Best Exhibit for Clinical Application Award at the 2003 Postgraduate Assembly in Anesthesiology of the New York Society of Anesthesiologists (*Figure*). His exhibit featured the Universal Emergency Airway Flowchart (see http://www.AirwayEducation.com/flowchart_intro.asp).

William C. Roberts, MD, was designated Master of the American College of Cardiology (MACC) in recognition of his outstanding service to the college. He received the award at the annual convocation on March 9, 2004.

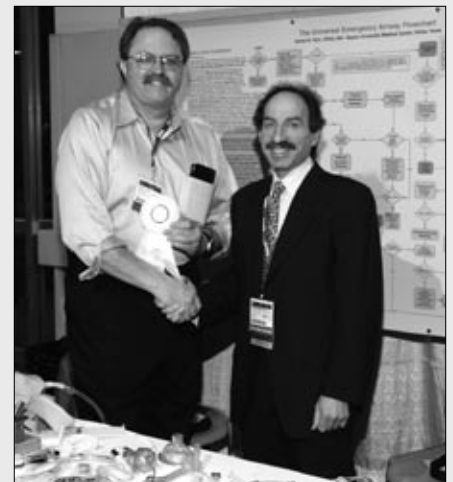


Figure. James M. Rich (left) receiving the award for his Universal Emergency Airway Flowchart.

education, research, and quality during a week-long on-site survey in November 2003. Hospitals that receive magnet designation are committed

to providing a work environment that empowers nurses and values their contributions to patient care.

"For more than 100 years, part of our mission at Baylor has been to provide outstanding nursing care," said BUMC Chief Nursing Officer Remy Tolentino. "For the last 7 consecutive years in a survey distributed by the National Research Corporation, consumers have recognized Baylor as having the best nurses in the metroplex. And now, we are proud to be internationally recognized for our commitment to nursing excellence and to our patients."

■ Michael A. E. Ramsay Chair for Immunology Research established

A generous gift from Louis and Julia Beecherl will help make possible a new endowed chair to further the work of the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research. The Michael A. E. Ramsay Chair for Immunology Research will honor the president of the Baylor Research Institute and chief of anesthesiology and pain management at BUMC. In 1994, a lead gift from the Beecherls served as a challenge grant toward an \$18 million endowment for research on the immune system. A major gift from the couple also supported construction of the Zelig H. Lieberman Research Building.

■ Jack Aenchbacher is named president of Baylor Hospital at Plano

Baylor Health Care System has named Arthur E. "Jack" Aenchbacher, Jr., president of Baylor Hospital at Plano, a 96-bed hospital currently under construction near the intersection of President George Bush Turnpike and Preston Road. This hospital and medical office complex, the first BHCS-owned facility in Collin County, will open in December 2004. A Plano resident, Aenchbacher most recently served as president of Cooper Aerobics Enterprises, Inc., and executive director/executive vice president of the Cooper Institute.

■ Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation opens Mesquite outpatient rehabilitation services

On December 10, 2003, Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation opened the Baylor Outpatient Therapy and Sports Medicine Clinic at the Baylor Health Center at Mesquite, 1650 Republic Parkway. The clinic offers comprehensive physical and occupational therapy services to treat general acute and chronic orthopaedic conditions. In addition, a customized sports-related therapy program aims to address a recovering athlete's specific needs for agility, flexibility, strengthening, and endurance training. Sport-specific exercises and drills for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, track, gymnastics, swimming, cheerleading, and golf can be incorporated into the therapy. A sports injury prevention education and exercise program will be offered by the staff along with isokinetic equipment for testing and training.

UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

The A. Webb Roberts Center for Continuing Education of Baylor Health Care System is offering the following programs:

- **Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Esophagogastric Carcinoma**, April 24, 2004, at BUMC
- **Second Annual Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Trauma Course**, May 6–8, 2004, at Four Seasons Resort and Club, Las Colinas
- **Montreal to New York: All Hearts on Deck** cruise, June 15–23, 2004

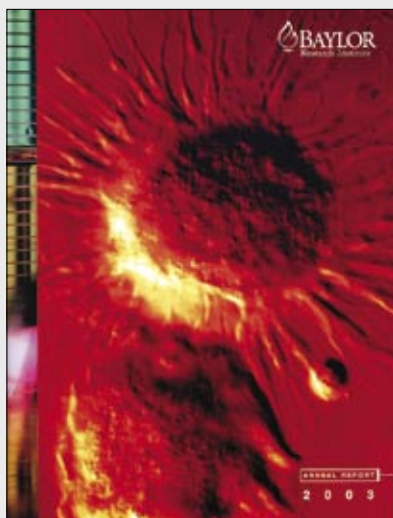
For more information, call 214-820-2317.

In addition, **Focus on Research** forums at BUMC offer CME credit. The following speakers will be featured:

- **Dr. Andrew Fenves**, April 27, 2004
- **Dr. Keith Hyland**, May 25, 2004
- **Dr. Robert Jackson and Dr. Fabian Pollo**, June 15, 2004

The forums will be held in the Folsom Room, 17 Roberts, at noon. For more information, contact Janet Collinson at 214-820-2687.

ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE



► To obtain a copy of the 2003 Baylor Research Institute Annual Report, call Darlene Pleiner at 214-820-9992. The report will also be posted online at <http://www.BaylorHealth.com/Research>.



► To obtain a copy of the 2003 Baylor Health Care System Report to the Community, call 1-800-4BAYLOR.

Please send news items to Cynthia Orticio by e-mail (cynthiao@BaylorHealth.edu) or fax (214-820-4064). All news items are subject to editing and confirmation.