



Figure 1. Marlon Levy, MD, Göran Klintmalm, MD, PhD, and Chet Rees, MD, performing the first islet cell transplant on patient Jennifer Shannon. Photo: Karen Campbell.

■ BUMC performs first islet cell transplant

Physicians on staff at BUMC performed their first islet cell transplant to treat a patient with type I diabetes (Figure 1). Jennifer Shannon, a 26-year-old fourth-grade teacher from Saginaw, Texas, received her first transplant on March 12, 2005, and a second transplant on May 3, 2005. Both times, she received 300,000 islet cells.

"After her first infusion, Jennifer had started producing her own insulin, but she still required low doses of insulin each day. We knew that she would need a second infusion to give her the 600,000 islet cells that we believe she needs to become insulin independent," said Marlon Levy, MD, medical director of the islet cell transplant program, Baylor Regional Transplant Institute.

Dr. Levy said the goal of islet cell research at Baylor is to achieve normal blood sugar levels in patients with diabetes, which would ultimately prevent the disease's major complications, such as blindness, heart disease, and kidney damage.

The islet cells came from the pancreas of a deceased donor. Scientists at the University of Miami School of Medicine separated the islet cells from the donor pancreas and then cultured those cells to ensure their viability. The islet cells were flown from Miami to Dallas, where Baylor's islet cell specialists performed final testing and prepared the cells for infusion.

Jennifer Shannon will come to Baylor regularly so physicians can monitor her blood sugar

and immunosuppressant levels. She will continue taking immunosuppressant medication, just as patients who receive a solid organ transplant.

Baylor received approval from the Food and Drug Administration for a 15-patient research study of islet cell transplantation in July 2004.

■ Groundbreaking held for new heart hospital in Plano

The Baylor Health Care System board of trustees recently approved the development of the Texas Heart Hospital of the Southwest, a hospital offering cardiology and vascular procedures, treatment, and care in a centralized, accessible location. The full-service heart center will be a partnership between Baylor Health Care System and 86 cardiovascular physicians and surgeons who practice in North Texas. This is Baylor Health Care System's second dedicated heart hospital and the only dedicated heart hospital in Collin County. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new facility was held on June 7.

Plans call for the construction of a 180,000-square-foot, 68-bed facility with a dedicated cardiac emergency department and heliport. The \$106 million venture, scheduled to open in January 2007, will be built at the corner of Plano Parkway and Preston Road near Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano. Construction will begin in June 2005.

David M. Zechman has been named president of the new hospital. He brings more than 20 years of experience to his new position, most recently as vice president of Jewish Hospital and as chief executive officer of Jewish Hospital Heart and Lung Institute in Louisville, Kentucky.

■ Baylor Medical Center at Southwest Fort Worth initiates outpatient gastric bypass program

In April, surgeons at Baylor Medical Center at Southwest Fort Worth, formerly Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Cityview, began offering outpatient laparoscopic gastric bypass (bariatric) surgery. The new program is a sister program to the outpatient bariatric surgery program at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, where more than 1500 outpatient gastric bypass surgeries have been performed. Todd McCarty, MD, medical director of the Baylor Weight Loss Surgery Program, has been performing bariatric surgery since 1998. Baylor Dallas' bariatric program is an outpatient surgery program in which nearly 75% of the patients leave the hospital 23 hours after their surgery.

The new program is unique in its interdisciplinary approach, which addresses the problem of obesity plus related comorbidities such as diabetes or problems with disordered eating.

ACCOLADES

Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System, won the 2005 CEO IT Achievement Award from *Modern Healthcare* magazine and the Healthcare Information Management System Society. The award recognizes executives who are committed to bringing information technology to their organization to improve care and meet strategic objectives.

Jacques Banchereau, PhD, director of the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, received the Person of the Year Award from the Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the French-American Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Banchereau is internationally renowned for his study of the human immune system.

Robert T. Gunby, Jr., MD, an obstetrician-gynecologist at BUMC, was installed as president of the Texas Medical Association in May 2005.

Psychological and nutritional counseling are part of the process both before and after the procedure.

■ Baylor hospitals receive 2005 VHA Leadership Award

Several Baylor medical centers received a 2005 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence. This prestigious award is given to health care organizations who achieve 90% or better on national performance standards for certain core clinical measures. Baylor Medical Centers at Garland and Irving, as well as BUMC, won the award for outstanding care in treating patients with acute myocardial infarction. Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine won the award for excellence in heart failure care. In addition to the clinical excellence award, BUMC won a 2005 VHA Leadership Award for Operational Excellence for achieving Magnet status in 2004. Since BUMC won awards in two categories, it also received the President's Award of Honor.

■ New leaders named

John McWhorter (Figure 2) was appointed president of BUMC and senior vice president of Baylor Health Care System, replacing Tim Parris, who left Baylor to pursue other opportunities. Prior to the appointment, Mr. McWhorter had been chief operating officer of BUMC for 2 years and president of Baylor Medical Center at Garland for 7 years. In addition to responsibility for BUMC, Mr. McWhorter will oversee Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, Our Children's House at Baylor, Baylor Specialty Hospital, Baylor Health Enterprises, and the Baylor Research Institute.

Michael Taylor (Figure 2) has been named senior vice president of Baylor Health Care System, replacing Gary Brock, who is now BHCS chief operating officer. Mr. Taylor served as president of the Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital since its inception, and now his responsibilities include operational oversight of community and regional medical centers in Fort Worth, Plano, Garland, Grapevine, Irving, and Waxahachie. Before joining Baylor, Mr. Taylor

UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

- Topics in Renal Diseases 2005, June 25, 2005, at The Westin Galleria Dallas
- Meeting of the North Texas Society of Echocardiography, June 30, 2005, at BUMC

For more information, call 214-820-2317.

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

- Gary L. Davis, MD, September 20, 2005
- John J. Nemunaitis, MD, October 11, 2005
- David J. Ballard, MD, PhD, November 8, 2005
- John Dixon, RN, MSN, December 20, 2005

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



Figure 2. John McWhorter (left) and Michael Taylor.

served as president and chief executive officer of MedCath, Inc., in Arizona and as senior vice president for the Oakwood Healthcare System in Michigan.

■ Baylor Medical Center at Irving named best place to work

Baylor Medical Center at Irving was named the "Best Place to Work" in Dallas-Fort Worth today by the Dallas Business Journal. Baylor Irving was recognized in the category of Top 10 Large Businesses with 500 or more local employees.

"At Baylor Medical Center at Irving, we appreciate our employees, reward them for their hard work, and continually solicit their input. We have an employee-focused culture that allows our organization to grow and thrive and deliver quality, safe patient care," said Jim Thaxton, president, Baylor Medical Center at Irving.

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