

THRI Mission

Texas Health Research Institute, in conjunction with other members of Texas Health Resources, their affiliated physicians, and other organizations will conduct medical research, offer educational programs, and undertake development projects that contribute to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Texas Health Research Institute A Member of Texas Health Resources

Edge

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Tom Franklin, PhD, THRI President, Resigns

Dr. Tom Franklin, long-time president of Texas Health Research Institute, resigned in February. Dr. Franklin led THRI (and its predecessors) for 12 years and worked with Texas Health Resources management to develop the specialized entity of THR responsible for coordinating research projects and providing continuing medical education for physicians on the medical staffs of THR hospitals.

George Pearson, THR Sr. Vice President for Medical Staff Affairs, has been named interim president. "It is the intention of THR to pre-

serve the outstanding services and capabilities provided by THRI and its staff." said Mr. Pearson. "A nation-wide search for Dr. Franklin's replacement has already begun. In the meantime, THRI will continue to operate with its staff of research and education professionals."

"...In the meantime, THRI will continue to operate with its expert staff of research and education professionals."

**George Pearson
Interim President, THRI**

Texas Health Research Institute joined the THR system in 1998. However, the entity that became THRI began in 1984 as the North Texas Spine Research Institute – later known as the Texas Back Institute Research Foundation. It was a non-profit private operating foundation affiliated with the Texas Back

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Institute, and its function was to facilitate clinical and pre-clinical research in the area of spine. In 1995, the Institute for Spine and Biomedical Research (ISBR), a 501(c)(3) Medical Research Organization, spun off from TBIRF. Soon after the formation of Texas Health Resources in 1997, discussions began about how to envelop the programs and services of ISBR into the new healthcare system, and THRI became a full member entity of THR.

THRI's first major program initiative was the Presbyterian Institute for Minimally Invasive Technology (PIMIT). Surgeons come from around the globe to learn special minimal access surgery techniques and procedures from the faculty that the PIMIT assembles. The facility is a unique fixture in a community-based hospital system that provides technologically advanced learning resources such as telesurgical demonstrations and a 6-station endoscopic skills laboratory.

Another major achievement during Dr. Franklin's tenure was the merging of three distinct continuing medical education programs across the THR system into a strong, single staff of education professionals.

Texas Health Research Institute looks forward now to continued growth in the areas of research and development, continuing medical education and assessment of emerging technologies.

Dr. Shires Gives Presentation

Tom Shires, III, MD, chairman of the Presbyterian Institute for Minimally Invasive Technology's (PIMIT) advisory council and chair of Surgical Services at Presbyterian

Hospital of Dallas gave a presentation to the Downtown Dallas Rotary Club on February 19 on the development and availability of new medical technologies.

Dr. Shires presented information on several new technologies becoming available to patients, including radiofrequency thermal ablation of liver tumors, drug-eluting stents for coronary artery blockage, and new procedures for total hip replacement that utilize shorter incisions.

Dr. Shires also discussed the importance of physician training as a part of the process for bringing any new technology to patients. He noted that Texas Health Resources has provided access to advanced training for physicians on the medical staffs of its hospitals. The PIMIT is THR's center for learning many of these new techniques and procedures as they become available. Last year, over 1,750 surgeons and other healthcare professionals received training at the PIMIT on various cardiothoracic, urological, obstetrical, and general surgery procedures.



Dr. Tom Shires (l) and Mr. Neil Resnick, president of the Downtown Dallas Rotary Club.

THRI Receives Grant to Support CME Professional Development

Texas Health Research Institute is pleased to acknowledge Stryker Endoscopy for a recent grant in the amount of \$15,600 to support the development of a presentation that was given at the recent Alliance for Continuing Education annual meeting in Dallas, Texas.

The presentation, entitled "Benefits of Live Interactive Procedures for CME" was

given by Richard Bumpass, visual communication coordinator at the PIMIT, Marilyn Peterson, THRI director of CME and Carrie Cantrell, manager of CME at the PIMIT.

Slides from the presentation are available for review on THRI's website, www.thri.org (choose "continuing medical education" and scroll to the bottom - "Professional Development").

PIMIT Awarded AAALAC Accreditation

Texas Health Research Institute recently received notification from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) that the PIMIT, THRI's minimal access surgery research and training center, has been awarded full accreditation, completing a multi-year process that included raising both facility and procedural standards.

Institutions accredited by AAALAC do so on a voluntary basis, and there are currently more than 600 world-wide. Texas Health Research Institute, as many other institutions, choose to seek this accreditation for a number of reasons. First, AAALAC accreditation is a symbol of quality, showing that an institution is serious about maintaining standards for animal research. It also promotes scientific validity, providing healthy animals are used in research projects and that superior animal care practices are followed. Finally, AAALAC accreditation demonstrates a willingness to set higher standards than are required by law to provide the public and others that they are committed to the responsible use and treatment of animals in science.

Texas Health Research Institute is proud to be counted among those accredited institutions in promoting excellence in research.



THRI Leadership Council Sets First Meeting

THRI's newly-formed Leadership Council will hold its first meeting in early April. Douglas Hawthorne, president and CEO of Texas Health Resources, will be the featured speaker at the event.

The Leadership Council has been formed to help bridge relationships between THRI and local business on behalf of all of THR. The Council consists of approximately 35 members to date from across the D/FW Metroplex.

THR Activities

The Texas Health Research Institute is a member organization of the Texas Health Resources. THR-related news will be reported here each quarter:

Continuing Medical Education

- In 2002, 1050 CME activities were offered by Texas Health Resources, and more than 29,000 registrants enrolled for one of those activities.
- CME staff have begun the process of applying for reaccreditation from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

Research Office Activities

THRI is currently helping THR investigators coordinate 19 clinical trials involving more than 400 patients. THRI has research staff located at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas and Presbyterian Hospital of Plano. Physicians on the staff of a Texas Health Resources hospital interested in participating in clinical research trials may contact Dr. Jeanette Ahrens at (972) 981-3746 for additional information.

Community Service

THRI employees recently participated in several community service projects across the Metroplex. Food pantry contributions were collected, volunteers manned a Salvation Army "kettle" for a day at a local mall, and contributions were collected for Collin County's homeless shelter. Additionally, volunteers from THRI helped judge a local science fair.

Communications

THRI has developed a new online newsletter, *THRI Viewpoint*, that will be distributed to advise stakeholders of activities and important news about THRI. If you would like to be included on the distribution list, please e-mail Mollie McCune at molliemccune@texashealth.org.

Texas Health Research Institute Contributors

It is with great thanks and appreciation that Texas Health Research Institute recognizes these 128 corporations, hospitals, foundations and individuals for their contributions, totaling more than \$2.6 M in 2002.

Benefactor **\$50,000 and above**

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Schedule of Educational Activities

Texas Health Research Institute

Presbyterian Institute for Minimally Invasive Technology (PIMIT)

Urology Update: March 19, 2003, Brian A. Feagins, MD, Course Chair.

Introduction to Laparoscopic Ultrasound Imaging and Radio-frequency Thermal Ablation of Liver Tumors: March 21, 2003, Robert W. Sewell, MD, Course Chair

Urology Update: April 16, 2003, Brian A. Feagins, MD, Course Chair.

APLS (Advanced Pediatric Life Support): April 25-26, 2003, Cub Culbertson, MD, Course Chair.

For additional information, please visit the website, www.pimit.org, or contact the PIMIT CME staff at (214) 345-5391 or (800) 279-8657

Urology Update: May 21, 2003, Brian A. Feagins, MD, Course Chair.

Basic Laparoscopy & Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy: May 30, 2003, Robert W. Sewell, MD, Course Chair.

Gastroesophageal Reflux Surgery: June 6, 2003, Ronald Aronoff, MD, Course Chair.

Common Duct Exploration: June 7, 2003, Ronald Aronoff, MD, Course Chair.

Hospital-Based One-Time Conferences and Symposia

Parkinson's Disease Update 2003: March 8, 2003 (Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas), R. Malcolm Stewart, MD, Course Chair.

Richard Sparr Lecture: March 11, 2003 (Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas), Ralph J. Turner, MD Course Chair.

Advances in the Evaluation and Treatment of Shoulder Pain: March 17, 2003 (Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest), J. Parker, MD, Course Chair.

New Armamentarium in the Fight Against Cancer: March 27, 2003 (Harris Methodist Hospital Erath County), James W. Smith, DO, Course Chair.

Heart of Diabetes: March 29, 2003 (Wyndham Hotel, Arlington, Texas), R. Lee Forshay, MD, Course Chair.

Spring Ophthalmology Symposium: April 25, 2003 (Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas) Rajiv Anand, MD, Walter E. Beebe, MD, and Ronald L. Fellman, MD Course Chairs.

Advances in the Treatment of Headache and Migraine: August 23, 2003 (Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas) Stuart B. Black, MD Course Chair

For additional information regarding these one-time conferences and for the ongoing series conferences offered across the THR system, please visit the website at www.thri.org and choose "continuing medical education", or call (214) 345-2323.

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