

September 22, 2004

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**Prominent M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Physician Featured Speaker at “Gift of Life” Health Forum**

The **Julie Rogers “Gift of Life” Program** and the **Jefferson County Medical Society**, in partnership with the **Lamar University Department of Nursing** and **The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center**, presented a Prostate Cancer Health Forum for more than 600 nursing students, nurses, physicians, and medical professionals on **Wednesday, September 22 at Lamar University’s Montagne Center**. Attending physicians received 4.5 credit hours and nursing professionals received 4.8 contact hours.

Prominent M. D. Anderson Cancer Center physician **Curtis A. Pettaway, MD, Associate Professor of Urology**, addressed “Early Detection of Prostate Cancer.” **Jane Williams, MSN, APRN, BC, FNP**, and **Elizabeth Hossan, RN, MS, CFNP**, also of Anderson, provided information on other prostate cancer topics, including “Prostate Cancer Overview and Staging,” “Overview of Prostate Cancer Treatment Options,” “Prostate Cancer Prevention: Dietary Recommendations,” “Hormonal Ablation in Men with Prostate Cancer,” and “New Agents in Treating Prostate Cancer (including Clinical Trials).”

Dr. Pettaway serves as the Medical Director of the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Prostate Outreach Project. His areas of interest include patients with prostate, penile and bladder cancers. He also focuses on combination treatment strategies for high-risk prostate cancer, racial disparities in prostate cancer, and intraoperative lymphatic mapping and new treatments for penile cancer.

The sixth annual health forum was sponsored by **Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, TAP Pharmaceuticals Inc., Odyssey Healthcare, Aventis Pharmaceuticals** and **Solvay Pharmaceuticals**.

Prostate Cancer Health Forum Chair, **Rita Davis, RN**, stated, “It’s an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with the Lamar University Department of Nursing and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center representatives, who are totally dedicated to service.”

## **“Gift of Life”**

### **Page Two**

Both Ms. Williams’ and Ms. Hossan’s professional backgrounds include prostate cancer screening, contact with prostate cancer patients in active treatment, managing symptoms related to cancer and cancer therapy, and long-term follow-up after therapy.

In addition to Forum Chair, **Rita Davis, RN**, other committee members include **Denise Boutte, RN**; **Henri deS. Clarke, MD**; **Eileen Deges Curl, PhD, RN**; **Iva Hall, PhD, RNC**; **Gay-Lynne Jones, RN**; **Lourdes Kong, BSN, RN**; **Brenda Nichols, DNSc, RN, FRCNA**; **Lois Rutman, RN**; **Gale Simmons, Executive Officer, Jefferson County Medical Society**; **Megan Smith, “Gift of Life” staff member**; and **Ruth Langham Williams, BSN, RN**.

As **one of the largest cancer screening initiatives of its type in the state**, the "Gift of Life" serves more than **5,000** recipients annually. In addition to approximately **500** prostate cancer screenings conducted each year, with follow-up care available at UTMB Galveston, several thousand individuals are provided cancer awareness education and information at more than **50** "Gift of Life" Sidney ‘Chief’ Dauphin outreach programs and area health fairs; over **850** medically underserved women receive free mammograms at Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals in Beaumont and Orange; and an additional **750** women are provided free mammograms and clinical breast exams on the UTMB mobile van at strategic locations throughout Southeast Texas twenty times each year. Further, the "Gift of Life" minivan is available for clients who require transportation services to and from the program's cancer screening tests and exams.

A cooperative effort of Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospitals, the Julie & Ben Rogers Cancer Institute, the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston and its local clinics, the UTMB Cancer Stop Program, The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and local physicians, the “Gift of Life” has funded over **8,500** free mammograms and **3,200** free prostate cancer screenings, and has conducted more than **250** educational outreach programs since its inception.