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Gamma Knife arrives

It was two years in the making, but Monday, June 2, the Leksell Gamma Knife arrived at the IU Medical Center.

The IU Gamma Knife is the only one in Indiana and one of only 28 in the nation. It is the most accurate and verified instrument of its kind for stereotactic radiosurgery on benign or malignant tumors of the brain, as well as treatment of vascular malformations and facial pain such as is caused by trigeminal neuralgia.

The Gamma Knife unit is only about 6 feet tall and 5 feet wide, but it weighs in at nearly 20 tons, which made delivery particularly interesting. The unit and the cost of constructing a special underground room to house it cost nearly \$4 million, but \$1 million of that expense was off-set by a pledge from the Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana, Inc. The remainder of the cost is covered by Clarian Health through the Indiana University Capital Campaign. It will be managed jointly by the IU Department of Radiation Oncology and Division of Neurosurgery.

Co-directors of the Gamma Knife Program are Robert Timmerman, MD, and Thomas Witt, MD.

Dr. Timmerman said that in addition to the obvious clinical benefits, the Gamma Knife will be used for research and teaching. The treatment room housing the Gamma Knife was made larger than necessary so that residents in neurosurgery and radiation oncology could participate in the process, as well as residents and medical students in neurology and pediatric rotations.

Clinical research and basic science research also will be pursued in the Gamma Knife Program.

The program will be investigating the possibility of participating in clinical trials involving chemotherapy agents used in conjunction with radiosurgery, radiosensitisers, alternate fractionation schemes and other treatment protocols.

Other research will focus on dose prescription and distribution analysis, along with the effects of radiation on normal surrounding brain tissues.

Drs. Timmerman and Witt said the Gamma Knife holds interesting research prospects involving other disciplines such as neurosurgeons, neuroanatomists and others studying brain disorders.

BRIEFS

Mentors sought

Be there as a mentor, a professional and a friend for a medical student through his or her medical school experience. A faculty or staff member can become a mentor by beginning as a sponsor of a first-year student for the White Coat Ceremony in August. The cost of sponsorship is \$25, is tax deductible and will cover the purchase of the coat. Please call the Office of Alumni Relations, 274-8828, for a registration form.

Fellowships awarded

Steven Steiner, MSIV, was awarded a John H. Edwards Fellowship for the academic year 1997-98. The fellowship is one of the highest distinctions for a graduate student at Indiana University. It is awarded to students who exhibit good citizenship and character, scholastic ability and intellectual capacity, and who engage in public service and are likely to continue that service in the future.

Each graduate school may nominate one candidate, except for the College of Arts & Sciences which may nominate three. This year five fellowships were awarded. The other recipients are from the College of Arts & Sciences, School of Law, SPEA and the School of Music.

John H. Edwards graduated from IU in 1891 with a bachelor of arts and graduated from the Northwestern School of Law in 1894. He served in state and federal government posts throughout his career.

IUSM student Claire Godfrey has received a \$6,000 fellowship from National Medical Fellowships, Inc.

Godfrey, a fourth-year medical student, is one of only 35 students nationwide selected for the honor.

Her research will focus on the Molluscum Contagiosum Virus (MCV), a poxvirus that causes a mild skin infection in healthy children and adults and often causes large lesions in persons with AIDS. Her project will focus on how the virus interacts with patients' immune systems.

Surgeons meet at IU

In his role as president of the Ohio Valley Society for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Michael Sadove, MD, professor of surgery, presided over the 40th annual meeting last week-end on the IUMC campus.

Faculty members Barry Eppley, MD, Robert Havlik, MD, Rajiv Sood, MD, and Jeffrey Wagner, MD, served on the program committee.

Seniors recognize faculty with awards

In senior class tradition, the Class of '97 recognized faculty for outstanding teaching in the basic and clinical sciences. Congratulations to the following faculty:

Basic Science Awards

Bloomington	Mark W. Braun, MD
Evansville	James J. Brokaw, PhD
Fort Wayne	Darryl R. Smith, MD
Indianapolis	Robert A. Harris, PhD
Lafayette	Regina A. Kreisler, MD, PhD
Muncie	Lee E. Engstrom, PhD
Northwest	Tsua-Yuen Huang, MD
South Bend	John F. O'Malley, PhD
Terre Haute	Taihung Duong, PhD

Clinical Science Awards

Family Medicine	Nicholas E. Fohl, MD
Medicine	Gareth H. Gilkey, MD
Neurology	Robert M. Pascuzzi, MD
Ob/Gyn	James J. Nocon, MD

Pediatrics
Psychiatry
Radiology
Surgery
Surgery Specialty

Jill S. Mazurek, MD
Maxwell Sobel, MD
Stan G. Alexander, MD
Frederick J. Rescorla, MD
Richard C. Rink, MD

New faculty named in pediatrics

Brenda Poindexter, MD and Laura Haneline, MD will join the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, on July 1. Both have just completed their fellowship training at IUSM.

Poindexter received her medical degree from the Medical College of Ohio and completed her residency at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati. Haneline received her medical degree and residency training from IUSM.

The physicians are recognized for their research accomplishments, both having received a National Research Service Award from the NIH as well as numerous other awards and research grants.

Regenstrief honored for record system

The Regenstrief Institute for Health Care is a recipient of the 1997 Nicholas E. Davies Computer-based Patient Record (CPR) Recognition Award of Excellence. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of health care providers who use a computer-based patient record system, which improves health care delivery.

The Regenstrief Institution's medical record system developed by Clement McDonald, MD, distinguished professor in the IU School of Medicine and a scientist at the Regenstrief Institute of Health Care, promotes a more effective and efficient method of serving its patients.

The presentation of the award will take place at the Computer-based Patient Record Institute Third Annual Nicholas E. Davies CPR Recognition Symposium, June 19-20 in Washington, D.C. J. Marc Overhage, MD, PhD, associate professor in the IU School of Medicine and a Regenstrief Institute scientist, and Dr. McDonald will accept the award and present a demonstration of their system on behalf of the Regenstrief Institute.

Correction

The name of Lynn Willis, PhD, vice chairman and professor of pharmacology and toxicology, was inadvertently omitted from the story on the awarding of the first Teaching Excellence Awards in the June 2 issue.

<http://www.medicine.indiana.edu>