the surgeon stands between the doughnuts, watching a video monitor displaying the MRI images—which can be updated as quickly as twice per second.

Because the image is configured to allow the surgeon access to the patient, the field strength is less than a regular diagnostic MRI—0.5 versus 1.5 Tesla—so the resulting image quality is inferior. However, the preoperative CT or MRI scans are still required to familiarize oneself with the anatomy and look for subtle lesions, Dr. Sewell said.

The intra-operative MRI is used to localize the kidney, then plan and monitor the path of the incision. In a couple as the surgeon inserts it through a 4 mm incision into the centre of the tumour.

The probe—called Cryo-Hit and designed by Tel Aviv-based Galil Ltd.—is non-magnetic, so it doesn't interfere with MRI imaging.

Dr. Sewell uses three cycles of freezing and thawing to rupture the tumour cell membranes.

Pressurized argon gas is used for freezing, producing a temperature of −188°C at the tip of the probe, creating an “ice ball” whose growth can be monitored on the video screen.

Pressurized helium gas then heats the tissue to up to 80°C.

“The MRI allows me to see where the probe tip is and move around and get three dimensional quality,” Dr. Sewell said. “It’s just like slicing through the body. It’s a virtual surgery, essentially.”

In 15 to 60 minutes, the tumour is a shrunken mass of inert cellular debris and the patient goes home the next day.

“You just put a Band-Aid on them and we’re done,” Dr. Sewell said. “You can’t even find the scar—it’s so small,” said Dr. Sewell. Ordinary naked-eye surgery, he added, involves a 10-mm incision, removal of surrounding tissue and weeks of recovery time.

The technology, said Dr. Sewell, could one day replace nephrectomy, if it has the same end result.

“If you’re faced with having your kidney removed and going on dialysis because you have a tumour, this is certainly of great benefit.”

(From the Mississippi Medical News, Nov. 19, 1999)

UMC PHYSICIANS PIONEER NEW LUNG CANCER SURGERY IN CHINA

Two physicians from the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMC) have been in China treating its overwhelming number of lung cancer patients—and teaching China's doctors to do the same. If the medical undertaking is successful, it could change the way lung cancer surgery is performed worldwide.

The UMC physicians used a new surgical procedure which was performed for the first time in the world at UMC and, since then, has been approved at the Jackson medical center for the past six months.

Surgeon/radiologist Dr. Patrick Sewell and oncologist Dr. Ralph Vance taught China's physicians how to perform the new surgery to battle lung cancer. In the process, the UMC physicians are conducting the study of the results likely called patients in the United States and worldwide.

“China has 300 million smokers, which is more than the entire population of the United States,” says Sewell, an assistant professor of radiology at UMC. “So they need a cost-effective way to treat lung cancer. This is a fast and cheap way to destroy tumors in the body.”

Sewell pioneered the new surgical procedure, called a radiofrequency of the lung tumor ablation, at UMC. He is considered the world’s authority on the procedure. Vance, a UMC professor of medicine, is designing and directing the related study and its joint research by Beijing and other oncologic institutions in the People’s Republic of China.

Sewell visited three cities—Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai—to lecture, demonstrate, and train surgeons. He went to China Oct. 4 and returned Oct. 17. Vance set up the patients and the study in advance, visiting China Oct. 11 through Oct. 14. Sewell also is nationally known for developing new surgical procedures using UMC’s interventional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to remove their tumors very similar to the China procedure. (UMC is one of three test sites in the United States for the vertical twin-magnet interventional MRI; the other test sites are at the teaching hospitals of Harvard and Stanford Universities.)

The interventional MRI displays magnetic resonance images in real-time during surgery so the physician can see a surgery’s progress and whether tumors are being destroyed. The China radiofrequency tumor ablation surgeries, in which a hot probe is used for tumor removal, employ an interventional CAT scanner instead of the interventional MRI.

In both procedures, a tiny incision in the patient’s skin enables the physician to insert a probe into the body to destroy the tumors. In the pioneering interventional MRI procedures, a cold CryoHit (freezing) probe most often is used. In the interventional CAT scanner surgeries in China used a hot (laser/radiofrequency) probe to destroy tumors, Sewell says.

In China, the procedure also received a new application; it was performed for the first time to treat primary tumors of the lung, ideally current tumors or those that have no evidence of metastasized tumors, or tumors from which the cancer has not spread.) Sewell notes that, in the United States at UMC, the procedure only has been used to treat metastasized tumors of the lung that have spread to other parts of the body as a means to prolong life and relieve suffering from incurable cancer.

Since conventional surgery can successfully remove primary tumors of the lung, Sewell can point to no compelling reason in the United States to use the CAT scanner procedure also as a cure. He says he is not willing to let a patient forgo conventional surgery here to test the results of the new procedure.

Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Cleveland legend who is leaving our fair city and heading south. Don Webster will no longer give Clevelanders the lowdown on lake effect snow, water spouts and other area weather abnormalities from his familiar home at Channel 5, WEWS.

Instead, in retirement he'll spend his days in a beautiful Hilton Head, South Carolina, where I have no doubt he'll nurse his golf game and his famed tan. As any Clevelanders knows, when it comes to tanning, Don Webster gives George Hamilton a run for his money.

My guess is he'll also delight the locals and tourists with his meteorological prowess whenever hurricane watches and warnings are announced, and wax poetic about approaching fronts and the effects of El Nino and La Nina.

Don Webster and I first met more than a decade ago when I was the Lake County prosecutor and he was the grand marshal of the Fairport Harbor Mardi Gras Parade, and our paths have crossed many times since, especially at charity events. Don Webster probably feels I'm the place they feel like I've known him since I was about 10 years old.

I used to watch Don Webster every Sunday on a small, black-and-white TV in the living room of my childhood home in Cleveland Heights as he emceed Academic Challenge. My hope in mentioning this is that Don will at least feel a little bit old since he looks roughly the same today as he did three and a half decades ago. It hardly seems fair that Don Webster remains the epitome of vigor and personable youth while those of us who grew up watching him are losing our hair.

Don Webster is known to an entire generation of Americans as the host of nationally
TRIBUTE TO BRANDI NICHOLE GASKEY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, recently Brandi Gaskey was asked to give the commencement address at Farragut High School. She has had an amazing four years in high school. She was a member of the National Honor Society all four years, and she was also President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes her junior and senior year. Brandi was also involved in sports at Farragut and was voted most athletic, as well.

Mr. Speaker, recently Brandi Gaskey was asked to give the commencement address at Farragut High School. I have attached a copy of her remarks that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

HOPE THROUGH CHARACTER 1999 GRADUATION ADDRESS
(By Brandi Nichole Gaskey)

Mr. Superintendent, friends, family, distinguishing guests, and fellow graduates of the last class of the century. I stand before you tonight filled with excitement as I welcome you to the 1999 Farragut High School Graduation Ceremony. As we have come to the end of our formal education, to for some of us a miraculous occasion, the question was asked “Does character count?”

Although I could not think of one word to define character, I respond with an enthusiastic YES, character does count. It counts for you and me and every person we will ever come across. It counts in a big way through the small things we do or say every day. Character is who you are in the dark, when no one is looking. It’s what’s on the inside, the gutsy stuff you’re made of that no one knows about, but one day every one will see. My pastor, Doug Sager, once said, “your character is your set of values that are non negotiable. It’s the quality of life given to you by God to say what is right and to stand up for it.” For you see, your character can either make you or break you because everyone has character. It’s just a matter of how you choose to develop it. For example, two students at Columbine High School had the character to kill their fellow classmates, while another student at Columbine had the character to stand up for their faith no matter what the cost. So I’d like to share with you today how to develop your character, and exactly why it does count. Moris Manдель tells a story of how the forming of our character is like the forming of an icicle. An icicle forms one drop at a time until it is about one foot or two long. If the water was clear, the icicle remains clear and sparkles like dia mond. However, if the icicle looks foul and its beauty is spoiled. Just so, our characters are forming one little thought at a time, one little action at a time. In the Bible, in Romans 5:14 it states, “trials make perseverance, perseverance our character, and that character produces hope.” Hope is a true love. The Bible says, “A heart full of sunshine and a life full of grace are beauty far better than beauty of face. I think t’would be lovely to live and ride successfully, but I’d like to leave you with the words of Abraham Lincoln. He said, “Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings. Only one thing endures forever and that is your character.” Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the purpose of introducing the Small Business Disaster Assistance Act.

This is a two-part proposal that seeks to provide immediate assistance for small businesses and agricultural enterprises once the damage wrought by disaster. The bill creates a loan program that seeks to provide them with the needed assistance they need when dealing with a disaster. Additionally, the bill creates a loan program that acknowledges the great difficulties those small business owners and farmers encounter during the first year following a disaster by allowing for a one-year deferral on any repayments toward the loan, and, furthermore, allows the recipient to pay back the principal of that loan before the interest.

This is a compassionate, reasonable proposal that seeks to provide small businesses and farmers with assistance during a time when they need it most. I’d like to thank my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman Bob Franks, for his important contribution in drafting this legislation, and I hope that our colleagues will join us in this effort to assist small business owners and farmers whose lives have been fundamentally diminished by natural disaster.

ROMANIA

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Roman-Caucus, I rise today to enter into the record remarks in support of Romania. Mr. Speaker, the Heads of State and Government participating in the Istanbul Summit will designate the Chairmain-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the year 2001.

Romania has been fostering support for its candidacy since 1996. President Emil Constantinescu announced his country’s bid for the OSCE Chair in 2001. Romania enjoys U.S. support and has succeeded to build consensus around its candidacy among full OSCE