TTUHSC Surgeon Speaks at First Joint Cancer Conference in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is stepping up its fight against cancer — a fight experts from North America and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) are joining.

“The country has a high rate of breast cancer in women between the ages of 40 and 50, a much younger age than the average case in the U.S.,” said Mark Arredondo, M.D., interim chair for the Department of Surgery at TTUHSC Amarillo.

Why? That’s a question yet to be answered.

“We need a group of world investigators to ascend on the country and help answer this question... and quickly,” Arredondo said.

The first steps were taken in March as more than 1,000 physicians, cancer specialists, medical and nursing students traveled to the country for the first North American and Saudi joint conference on cancer. Arredondo joined a host of leading experts who spoke at the conference.

“I trained under Dr. Youcef Rustum, the co-moderator of the event. He called and asked if I could speak,” Arredondo said. “I was so honored. He could have called anyone in North America.”

Arredondo spoke about breast cancer and surgery at the conference, which represented the start of a collaboration that will lead to better health care for the 27 million Saudi residents.

One of the goals of the country is to create the cooperative assessment and treatment of cancer patients through centers similar to the Amarillo Breast Center of Excellence (BCE).

“One of the challenges is the lack of a cooperative of specialists who all follow the same cancers, like we do at the BCE,” Arredondo said. “When people start to work together, share ideas and focus on one specific thing, the patients benefit.”

Benefits that can be accomplished more quickly as we have done in the U.S., largely in part to conferences like this and working relationships with other countries.

“They will be able to accomplish what we’ve done in a much shorter amount of time,” Arredondo said. “They can learn from our successes and failures. We have premiere, cutting-edge cancer care in North America. To be able to share that knowledge with others will help us all in the long run.”

The King Fahad Hospital-Damman, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Saudi Cancer Foundation and the American Society of Clinical Oncology sponsored the meeting.
Former first lady Laura W. Bush recently delivered remarks in Amarillo to show her support for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center’s (TTUHSC) Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health (LWBIWH). The mission of the LWBIWH is to create an enduring, positive impact on the health and well-being of women and their families in West Texas and beyond.

“Women across the country and around the world need answers to their unique health issues,” Bush said. “The Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health is committed to finding these answers.” Bush addressed these important differences at a luncheon supporting the LWBIWH and its research and educational programs, along with Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance and TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D.

“We are very grateful to have Mrs. Bush’s continued support of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and are honored to have her as the namesake of our institute,” Hance said.

Many health discoveries and/or recommendations that apply to men may be different for women. More than 90 percent of national medical recommendations are based on a majority of research performed on men. For example, women are 50 percent more likely than men to have adverse reactions to prescription drugs, yet most drugs do not have different dosages based on a patient’s gender.

In an effort to address these differences, the LWBIWH is spearheading a project with the TTUHSC School of Medicine to develop an innovative, four-year longitudinal medical education curriculum focusing on women's health and medicine.

This unique education is a rising discipline that focuses on the differing medical needs of men and women. It is based on scientific discoveries that have been made in the past 15 years. The LWBIWH is bringing this information to the forefront of professional health care education.

“’The LWBIWH is proud to be a leader in the nation in women’s health and gender-based medicine for healthcare providers, students, and consumers, thanks to the efforts of our community businesses, organizations, and individuals,” said LWBIWH Executive Director Laura Street.

The LWBIWH also is developing a lecture series for doctors, nurses and pharmacists. This series will educate health care providers about differences in diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of common health issues among men and women.
Research Day

The fourth floor was filled with excitement on Wednesday as students, residents and faculty gathered for Research Day.

Research Day is an annual event held to allow students, residents and faculty to display case reports and research projects.

The event not only helps students learn about the research process but also exposes them to avenues they can use for future projects.

There were 28 students and 42 residents who took part in the event. More than 50 posters were presented this year.

Research Day Award Winners:

Students – Case Study
• 2nd Place – Lindsey Gaidousek, MSIV; Linda Do, MSIII
  Poster – Hemoperitoneum Following Ruptured Primary Abdominal Ectopic Gestation: A Case Report
• 1st Place – Kate Rean, MSIII
  Poster – Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Students – Research Study
• 2nd Place – Deng Madut, MSIV; Mohit Joshipura, MSIV; Ali Ashraf, MSIV
  Poster - Breast Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI)-Role in Breast Cancer Staging
• 1st Place – Stephen Katzen, MSIII; Ashley Woolbert, MSIII; Sean Anderson, MSIII; Michelle Parker, MSIII; Rachel Anderson, MSIII
  Poster – The Incidence and Reliability of Self-Reported Penicillin Allergy in a Community Hospital

Residents – Case Study
• 2nd Place – Sarah Hasham, M.D.
  Poster – Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA) in a Pediatric Patient Presenting as Henoch-Schonlein Purpura (HSP)
• 1st Place – Sarah Hasham, M.D.
  Poster – SSSS in a Newborn: A Case Report

Residents – Research Study
• 2nd Place – Archana Varma, M.D.; Rita Rosicker, M.D.
  Poster – Adherence in Medications in Children and Adolescent with Chronic Kidney Disease
• 1st Place – Nazrul Chowdhury, M.D.; Jewel Ahmed, M.D.
  Poster - Prevention of Human Adenocarcinoma with CpG-ODN in a Mouse Model

Deans Scholarly Achievement Award 2012
For published articles, abstract, manuscripts from peer-reviewed journals
• Satish Bagdure, M.D., “Waning Effect of Compulsive Bathing in Cannabinoid Hyperemesis”
• Johnnie Faircloth, M.D., “Case Report: Adverse Reaction to Synthetic Marijuana”
• Tashfeen Mahmood, M.D., “Cocaine Bugs: A Case Report of Cocaine Induced Delusions of Parasitosis”
• Rasmi Palassery, M.D., “N-acetylcysteine as a Novel Prophylactic Treatment for Ifosfamide-Induced Nephrotoxicity in Children: Translational Pharmacokinetics”
• Rikin Shah, M.D., “Onychomadesis Secondary to Penicillin Allergy in a Child”
• Houman Sharifi, M.D., “Waning Effect of Compulsive Bathing in Cannabinoid Hyperemesis”
• Paula Zorro-Smith, M.D., “Intramural Pregnancy Presenting in a Patient with Tuberous Sclerosis”
Eight School of Pharmacy students from the Amarillo campus have been named West Texas Pharmacy Association Scholarship recipients.

The students were selected on the basis of recommendations, GPA and a genuine interest in practicing pharmacy in West Texas.

The students are:

Brandon Frausto, Josh Long, Jessie Rea, Taryn Satterwhite, Megan Sneller, D'Neise Laverty, Stacey Johnson and Myka McMeans

School of Pharmacy Dean Arthur Nelson, R.Ph., Ph.D., and the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents recently announced the following promotions:

Thomas Abbruscato, Ph.D., to professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Paul Lockman, Ph.D., to associate professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Nikita Mirajkar, Ph.D., to assistant professor of Biomedical Sciences
Paul Lockman, Ph.D., was also awarded tenure.

All promotions are effective Sept. 1.
March of Dimes

Just a reminder, during April employees can pay $2 per day or $25 for the month to wear jeans to work. All money raised goes to support the local chapter of the March of Dimes.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to help mothers have full-term pregnancies and research problems that threaten the health of babies.

For more information, contact Stacy Evenson at stacy.evenson@ttuhsc.edu.

Out and About

April 21
Medication Cleanout

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
School of Pharmacy
1300 S. Coulter St.

Beware: Snake Alert

As the weather warms up, so does the threat of creepy, crawly creatures. All employees and students are being asked to be on alert for these creatures in the parking lot.

Remember, if needed, you can call the guard on duty at 806.679.4392
Touring the Public Art Collection

High Plains Correlative, 2009
Ken Williams
Pueblo, Colo.

Ken Williams received his degree in fine arts with an emphasis on ceramics and sculpture in 1969 from Southern Colorado State College.

Together with his wife, Judith, Williams pursued a career as a ceramic artist. By using brick and tile, the pair had the ability to add identifying features to architecture all over the world, creating focal points and giving a special identity to man-made environments.

The pieces located on campus connect the natural beauty of the Palo Duro Canyon with the urban architecture of the building.

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Texas Tech’s public art program started in 1998 and has grown into one of the best in the country. The art collection includes different forms of art such as sculpture, photographs, glass, paintings and ceramics.
Please send any information you’d like to include in The Beat to Steve Pair at steven.pair@ttuhsc.edu.