

THE *Cutting*

EDGE

Department of Surgery SIU School of Medicine

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SIU Continence Center: Offering State of Art Care for Women



Dr. Pat O'Donnell, director of the SIU Continence Center, shows a nurse a computer diagnostic readout.

According to Dr. Pat O'Donnell, "Incontinence is a common problem, especially in women. Over thirteen million Americans have some form of incontinence. Nearly 85% are women." O'Donnell, professor, is the new director of The SIU Continence Center and he brings over 35 years of experience in treating female incontinence to Central Illinois.

The Center offers a comprehensive array of clinical services for women with incontinence, urethra or bladder dysfunction and pelvis support problems. We offer...

- Physical examinations to evaluate the urinary tract and pelvic floor
- Advanced diagnostic testing to identify the causes of incontinence
- Behavioral and biofeedback treatment
- Surgical and nonsurgical options to treat incontinence and pelvic support problems
- Education about incontinence

Our state-of-the-art center provides innovative technology for comprehensive physiological testing by our well trained staff. We are located at St. John's Pavilion, 301 N. 8th Street, on the 4th floor. Call 217-545-7500 to schedule an appointment.

"It's exciting and rewarding to be able to offer hope to a patient population that traditionally is hard to," said Dr. O'Donnell. "I'm pleased to be able to give many women back their dignity and offer a new lease on life."

Cochlear Implants Offered at SIU

New treatments for patients with severe hearing loss are now available through the SIU Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery with the most current technology in implantable devices to overcome significant hearing loss that can not be adequately treated with conventional hearing aids. Untreated hearing loss in children and adults can result in significant social and emotional problems. Impaired communication, speech delay, as well as employment and

educational challenges are well-recognized sequelae of hearing loss. Conventional hearing aids, either fitted in the ear, the canal or behind the ear, can overcome many of these difficulties. However, hearing loss can progress and when hearing aids are no longer effective in maintaining communication ability, the cochlear implant can be an important option for many patients.

(Continued on page 3)

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Zook Endowed Chair Fund



SIU School of Medicine and Memorial Medical Center of Springfield have started a fund to endow a chair in honor of Elvin G. Zook, M.D. who has served as chairman and founder of SIU's plastic surgery division for 32 years. **The Elvin G. Zook, MD Endowed Chair in Plastic Surgery at SIU School of Medicine** honors

Dr. Zook as he steps down as chair in June of 2006. He joined the faculty at SIU in 1973 as the first plastic surgeon in central Illinois and served as President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in 1994. Since his arrival, he has helped train more than 50 plastic surgery residents, 20 microsurgery/hand fellows, 10 burn fellows and countless medical students. Persons interested in making donations and continuing Dr. Zook's legacy of excellence may contact the Memorial Medical Center Foundation at **217-788-4700**. Dr. Zook will continue to train residents and perform surgery.

Metzmaker Directs Practice Development



As the Department of Surgery continues to expand, a new position was created to strengthen relationships with its referring physicians in an effort to ensure that the highest quality, communication and continuity is maintained in regard to patient care. Ms. Marna Metzmaker is currently working on

standardizing certain SIU practices as they relate to referring physicians and patients. She will soon be traveling through Central and downstate Illinois, meeting with existing and potential referring physicians to identify their needs and concerns. Ms. Metzmaker has an extensive healthcare background including 5 years as Executive Director of the Sangamon County Medical Society. She can be reached at **217-545-1059**.

Director Named for SIU Cancer Institute



Dr. K. Thomas Robbins has been named director of the SIU Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine, having recently served as interim director since January 2004. He joined SIU in July 2003 as professor and chair of the otolaryngology head and neck surgery and associate director for clinical services for the SIU Cancer Institute.

"Dr. Robbins has proven himself extremely well qualified to take on this leadership position permanently as he has made tremendous strides moving our developing cancer institute forward, including starting the development of a strategic plan," said Dr. J. Kevin Dorsey, Dean and Provost.

Dr. Robbins has gained international recognition for his contributions to the field of head and neck oncology and has served as an invited guest lecturer in many countries from six continents. He is best known for his pioneer work on the use of super-selective intra-arterial chemotherapy for advanced head and neck cancer and development of the widely accepted classification for neck dissection terminology used by surgeons.

Woodson Named Otolaryngology Chair

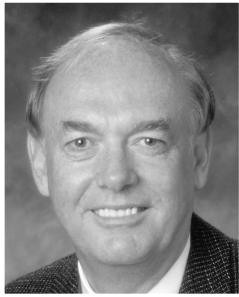


Dr. Gayle Woodson has been named chair of the Division of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. She replaces Dr. K. Thomas Robbins who was named director of the SIU Cancer Institute but remains with the Division's faculty as well. Woodson joined SIU in July 2003 as professor in the division and director of the SIU Voice Center at

St. John's. Her specialty is treatment of the voice and voice disorders including diseases of the larynx. She is known nationally and internationally for her work in treatment of laryngeal paralysis and other neurogenic voice disorders. Dr. Woodson served fellowships in laryngology at the Institute of Laryngology & Otology in London, England and at Baylor College of Medicine.

NEW FACULTY IN SURGERY

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Pat O'Donnell, M.D.
Professor
Division of Urology

Specialty: Female incontinence

Prior to joining SIU, Dr. O'Donnell was Director of the Eastern Oklahoma Continence Center in Tulsa. He has authored two medical books, **Geriatric Urology** and **Urinary Incontinence**. He also holds patents on urological incontinence devices. Dr. O'Donnell completed a fellowship in female urology and urodynamics from the UCLA Center for Health Sciences. Dr. O'Donnell directs the only full service urodynamics lab in downstate Illinois (see cover story). To schedule an appointment, call **217-545-7500**.



Colleen Johnson, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Division of Vascular Surgery

Specialty: Minimally invasive treatment of varicose veins and venous disorders

Dr. Johnson recently completed a two-year fellowship in vascular surgery at the University of Missouri Hospitals and Clinics in Columbia, Missouri. She specializes in the surgical management of vascular diseases, including cerebrovascular, aortic aneurysms and peripheral vascular disease. She is board certified in general surgery and board eligible in vascular surgery. To schedule an appointment, call **217-545-5555**.



Edward Alfrey, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Division of General Surgery

Specialty: Kidney/Pancreas transplant

Dr. Alfrey was director of the Kidney Transplant Unit at the Penn State University School of Medicine and held positions at Stanford University School of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He served a fellowship in liver, pancreas, and kidney transplantation at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He recently completed a master's degree in Health Care Management at Harvard. His research interests include liver transplant immunology, renal physiology and clinical outcomes. To schedule an appointment, call **217-545-5878**.

Caring for the Patient with Cancer: 6th Annual SIU Cancer Institute Symposium

February 10, 2006

8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

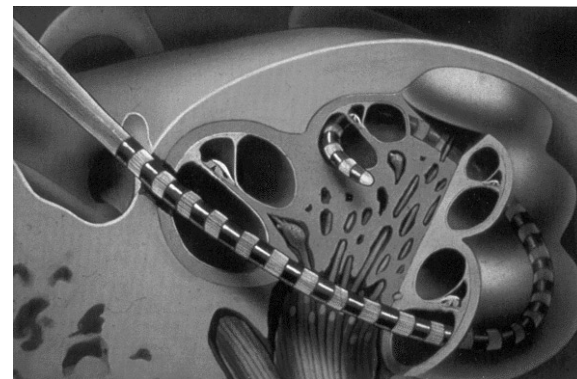
Prairie Heart Institute - James T. Dove, MD Conference Center

Program includes:

Dr. Tom Tarter, Dr. Stephen Hazelrigg and Dr. K. Thomas Robbins (course director)

For further information, contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education at 217-545-7711.

Cochlear Implants Offered (cont'd from page 1)



A cochlear implant has 20 stimulating electrodes that are inserted into the inner ear under general anesthesia.

An external microprocessor codes auditory information into a digital signal that is transmitted to the inner ear device through a telecoil.

Stimulation of the cochlea results in auditory perception that can exceed the fidelity achieved with conventional hearing aids. Cochlear implant candidates must be at least 12 months of age, with moderate to profound hearing loss. Implant surgery is an outpatient service that is covered by many insurance plans as well as Medicare.

There is a special group of adults and children with hearing loss resulting from impaired conduction of sound from the external to the inner ear. This conductive loss may occur after ear surgery for cholesteatoma, congenital loss of the ear canal or middle ear, or problems with the hearing bones. Some of these patients can not benefit from conventional hearing aids, but can be treated with a bone-anchored hearing amplification system or BAHA. A titanium post is embedded into the mastoid bone behind the ear, which integrates into the surrounding bone. Attachment of a specialized amplifier to the fixture allows direct stimulation of the inner ear through the mastoid bone, overcoming any problem of sound conduction that impairs hearing. Children and adults are candidates for using the BAHA. The outpatient surgery for device placement is performed under general anesthesia. Insurance coverage for the device is available.

SURGICAL SKILLS LABORATORY EXPANDS



Brad Paris, M.D., performs “virtual colonoscopy”.

Like airline pilots, surgical residents at SIU over the last several years have trained in the Surgical Skills Laboratory prior to performing surgical procedures in the operating room. This curriculum includes training in basic skills and tasks as well as performance of full procedures such as axillary dissection in a cadaver model. With the increasing use of virtual reality for surgical skills simulation, we are now expanding the facility to create a new Center for Virtual Reality Training adjacent to the current basic skills laboratory. The basic Surgical Skills Laboratory as well as the new adjacent center are located across the hall from the operating room at Memorial Medical Center. The new center, which opened in early January, like the original Surgical Skills Laboratory were entirely funded by Memorial Medical Center. The new center for virtual reality will allow continued training in procedures such as colonoscopy and bronchoscopy. Another device called the Laparoscopic Simulator (Lap Sim) hones resident’s eye-hand coordination and visual spatial

perception to prepare them for basic and advanced laparoscopic surgery in the operating room. Surgeons in training or in practice will learn catheter-based endovascular skills in the new Endovascular Surgery Simulator.

This expanded facility will allow us to continue our leadership in surgical skills simulation as we move towards certification of proficiency in the skills lab prior to performance of the procedure in the operating room. The Residency Review Committee in surgery has now announced that all surgical training programs must have a surgical skills laboratory by 2008. SIU surgery is leading a national project to develop a curriculum for surgical skills simulation for training programs throughout the US. We welcome alumni and all physicians in the community and region to drop by for a tour of the expanded surgical skills laboratory.

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