BERTNER AWARD

The presentation of the Seventh Annual Bertner Foundation Award and Lecture will be made following a social hour and dinner at the Doctors Club in the Texas Medical Center, March 8, on the second day of the Eleventh Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research.

The Award, established in 1950, is in honor of the late Dr. E. W. Bertner, first acting director of Anderson Hospital and the first president of the Texas Medical Center. The Award is presented annually for outstanding contribution in the field of cancer research.

The seventh award will be given to Dr. John J. Bittner, the George Chase Christian Professor of Cancer Research and Director of the Division of Cancer Biology in the Department of Pathology at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Dr. Bittner will receive the award for his inspirational research on the factors involved in the origin of mammary cancer in mice. Beginning with the investigation and discovery of the milk factor, he proved that inheritance was not the sole cause of the neoplasm's origin. Continuing his research he investigated genetic and hormonal factors, proving that interaction of these two, with the virus or milk factor, generally resulted in the development of this type of cancer in mice. Dr. Bittner's work has lead to many and varied investigations of the causation, development and course of cancer.

Previous recipients of the Award have been: Fred Stewart, George Smith, Charles Huggins, F. Peyton Rous, George N. Papanicolaou, and Joseph C. Aub.

DR. JOHN J. BITTNER, RECIPIENT of the Seventh Bertner Foundation Award.

SIMPLIFIED TECHNIQUE USED FOR CONTROL OF PAIN

A study made by the anesthesiology staff of MDAH has resulted in the adaption of a technique which may produce, simply and predictably, a complete sensory interruption for the control of pain—one of the most vexing aspects of advanced malignant disease.

The procedure, chemical rhizotomy, consists of blocking the nerve root at its cord level instead of its intervertebral foramina level.

The technique is an alternate to neuurosurgical procedures which interrupt the pain pathway by surgical severance of the affected nerve root or by section of a particular part of the cord itself, and which involves general anesthesia with its attendant risks and morbidity. The nerve blocking technique also may eliminate the use of narcotics for the control or comfort of the patient, and thus preventing the possibility of addiction which requires a hypo "by the clock" regardless of the severity of pain.

The anesthesiologist, by careful determining the pathway involved, is able to deposit a chemical agent within the subarachnoid membrane at the proper level. Thus the posterior, or sensory root transmission can be interrupted without harm to the anterior motor root. Careful positioning of the patient is required. The chemical agent, lighter than water, floats to the highest point and bathes the root in high concentration. The patient experiences an immediate sensation of warmth or burning in the root distribution and then the disappearance of pain. The relief of pain obtained in this manner lasts from three to six months, at which time the area may be reblocked.

The nerve blocking technique has been used on eighty patients at M. D. Anderson Hospital. The results have been rewarding in that there has been complete pain relief in seventy-six of the eighty patients.

The procedure must be undertaken with great care. Although it is simple to perform, the success depends upon knowledge of anatomy and strict attention to detail in doing the block. When properly administered, the cancer patient is able to be returned to a relatively comfortable existence as contrasted to his previous discomfort.

Detailed reports of the techniques are to be published in the near future.
MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICE PERFORMS FOUR-PART JOB

The Medical Social Service Department at M. D. Anderson Hospital has a four-part job to perform. The social workers assist in pre-appointment planning, clinic visit adjustment, follow through of recommended treatment, and discharge planning.

Pre-appointment planning consists of the trained medical social worker reviewing the patient's economic situation, age, infirmity, need for an attendant and other factors, so the arrival of the patient is handled without waste of time, money, and energy for both the patient and the hospital staff. This information is obtained primarily from the Application for Admission. The referring physician is in a position to state and list factors which might influence the care of the patient on the application form, and by so doing can be of great help to both the patient and the hospital staff.

Clinic visits are at times a completely new experience for the patient. Upon the patient's arrival, a medical social worker talks with the patient and his family to allay their fears and explain the diagnostic work-up. Referral of a patient from one laboratory to another without any interpretation of what is happening to him and why, could be most upsetting to the patient. But with the medical social worker's interpretation of procedures and careful handling of patient attitudes and feelings, the patient is more ready to accept recommended treatment. When plans for maintenance must be made or other problems solved, the medical social worker is also readily available to help the patient.

Treatment is interpreted to the patient by the physician. However, the medical social service worker, follows-up with the patient and family, stressing important factors and clarifying others to be sure they understand. In this follow-up, the medical social worker also helps patients overcome economic, social, and personal problems which may interfere with treatment. One problem often encountered is that of the mother who feels that because of her children and family, she cannot stay away from home long enough to complete the treatment required. The medical social worker is often able to help such patients find a solution to their problem by contacting community agencies set up to give such assistance. In this manner, the patient is put at ease and can cooperate in plans for treatment.

Discharge planning can often prove difficult because of a patient's poor financial situation, emotional tension, or strained family relationships. Other patients may feel uncomfortable toward the family income or because their illness will require so many personal services from family members who may already be over-worked. These problems must be handled by the medical social workers and solutions discussed with the patient and his family long before the patient is ready for discharge. All available health and welfare resources are used and special plans for convalescent care made when necessary. Rehabilitative possibilities and job training are also carefully considered when indicated.

The services provided by the staff members of the Medical Social are indicated by the statistics for January 1957. There were 672 patients seen, and 1,111 general services performed. These services spare many hours of professional medical time, and make possible the better care of the many indigent patients received at MDAH. The services include admission interviewing, assistance in adjustment to illness, assistance regarding family and personal problems, assistance in the following medical care, planning convalescent care, arranging for housing of out-of-town patients and relatives during the clinical work-up period, arranging transportation to and from clinics, and cooperative casework with other community agencies, as well as social histories for evaluation on arrival or admission.

Requirements for a medical social worker at MDAH include an M.A. degree and a thorough knowledge of the social, emotional, and economic factors involved in the care of the cancer patient. All workers have been trained to work with doctors in a hospital setting and to accept medical disciplines. The department is built upon the idea of service to the patient, doctor, and hospital.

TWO FELLOWSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Jesse H. Jones Fellowship

The Jesse H. Jones Fellowship in Cancer Education honoring the late Dr. E. W. Bertner has been awarded to Dr. C. P. Schwinn. A graduate of the University of Iowa Medical School in 1948, Dr. Schwinn was a teaching fellow at Harvard Medical School from January to June of 1952. In July of 1954 he received the James Ewing Fellowship, a resident appointment at Harvard.

Dr. Schwinn is using the fellowship to study at the University of London, where he is taking a year's concentrated course leading to a degree in clinical pathology. When completed, he will return to M. D. Anderson Hospital as assistant pathologist.

The Cancer Education fellowship was established in 1950 by Houston Endowment, Inc., a philanthropic organization established in 1937 by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Jones for the support of charitable, educational or religious undertakings.

The fellowship is to encourage physicians and scientists to prepare more effectively for caring for cancer patients, for teaching relating to neoplastic and allied diseases, and for carrying out research work in the field of malignant disease. It also provides the opportunity for graduate study in affiliation with the Memorial Hospital Center for Cancer and Allied
Diseases in New York on a reciprocal exchange program.

Bertner Foundation Fellowship

The second fellowship, the Bertner Foundation Fellowship, has been given to Dr. Jean B. Bataini, a fellow in radiotherapy at M. D. Anderson Hospital. Dr. Bataini received his M.B., and B. ch. degrees from Fouad I University in Cairo, Egypt. Four years prior to his coming to MDAH, he worked as assistant radiotherapist at The Curie Foundation in Paris. (This award was made to provide for an exchange fellowship with the Curie Foundation.) Dr. Bataini is the author of a book on tumors of tonsil and palate.

The Bertner Foundation was established in 1946 by the late Dr. Bertner and his wife, Julia W. Bertner, for charitable and educational purposes, particularly for the encouragement and promotion of research, study and education on cause, treatment, alleviation and cure of cancer and other diseases to which human beings are susceptible and as to which no satisfactory cure is known; and to assist scientists to engage in research or study into causes and cure of cancer.

PHYSICIANS INVITED TO OPEN HOUSE AND SYMPOSIUM

All Texas physicians are invited to the Eleventh Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research to be held at MDAH March 7, 8 and 9. The topic of the symposium will be "Viruses and Tumor Growth."

Thursday’s program will consist of open house, and reports of 34 of the 100 research projects currently in progress at the hospital. These reports will consist of panel reports on Hormones and Metabolism, Dr. J. B. Trunnell, chairman; Carcinogenesis, Dr. A. C. Griffin, chairman; Leukemia in Animals, Dr. Arthur Kirschbaum, chairman; Leukemia in Man, Dr. C. C. Shullenberger, chairman; Antimetabolites, Dr. C. C. Shullenberger, chairman; Developmental Aspects of Mammalian Cancer, Dr. Leon Dmochowski, chairman; Radiation and Biophysics, Dr. W. K. Sinclair, chairman; Tissue Culture Studies, Dr. T. C. Hsu, chairman; and Clinical and Related Investigations, Dr. C. D. Howe, chairman.

Friday’s symposium papers by nationally recognized investigators will include reports on pathology of virus neoplasia; genetic, hormonal and age factors in susceptibility and resistance to tumor-inducing viruses; immunological factors in viral infections; factors influencing proliferation of viruses; factors influencing proliferation of tumor-inducing viruses; transmission of tumor-inducing avian viruses under natural conditions; enhancement of susceptibility to viruses in neoplastic tissues; virus range of stable and pure-line cell strains; oncolytic properties of viruses; cell-free transmissions of leukemia; and isolation and identification of tumor-inducing viruses.

Saturday’s symposium papers, also by nationally recognized investigators, will include reports on host-virus relationship in tumor-inducing viruses; electron microscopy of tumor-inducing viruses; carcinogens and viral infections; the action of viruses on cells; the potential significance of nucleic acids and nucleoproteins of specific composition in malignancy; and viruses as transducing agents and their potential significance in cancer.

RADIONEROTHERAPIST TO GIVE LECTURES IN ENGLAND

Dr. Gilbert H. Fletcher, radiotherapist at MDAH, has been invited by Dr. Ralston Paterson, director of Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, England, to present a series of five lectures on the radiotherapy procedures in use at Anderson Hospital. Dr. Fletcher will give papers in September on cancer of the breast, cervix, oral cavity, pharynx, and urinary bladder.

HANNAH AWARD GIVEN MDAH RESIDENT

The Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has announced that the 1957 Hannah Award has been presented to Dr. Fil B. Kasilag, Jr., resident in gynecology at MDAH for his paper "Metastatic Breast Carcinoma in Ovaries."

A review of 71 cases of oophorectomy done for breast carcinoma was made. Twenty cases, or 28%, had metastatic disease to the ovary. A clinical review of the patients ovarian function involved in metastatic breast carcinoma showed no alteration. A review of the microscopic pathology indicated multiple mechanisms of metastases.

Dr. Kasilag received his M.D. degree from the University of the Philippines Medical School in 1952, and did postgraduate work at New York University, Bellevue Medical Center, before coming to MDAH in July 1956. He will return to work in the cancer field in the Philippines after completion of his studies in the United States.
THE UNIVERSITY CANCER FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED BY BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents of The University of Texas have established The University Cancer Foundation. The Foundation, a non-profit organization for educational and scientific purposes, has as trustees the Board of Regents. The purpose of the Foundation is to support the objectives and purposes of M. D. Anderson Hospital.

The Foundation will assist in organizing and promoting educational functions in order to create and disseminate knowledge of health, especially as it pertains to neoplastic and allied diseases to lay, professional, scientific and ancillary professional persons. It will encourage in every way, medical and scientific investigations, and foster and promote the progress and development of research and graduate study in medicine and its related fundamental sciences.

The Board of Regents has appointed a Board of Visitors composed of persons especially interested in the objectives of the Foundation and the activities of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, and a Medical Board composed of from five to nine members of the Anderson Hospital medical staff.

The Board of Visitors has as its duties, the securing of gifts, grants, bequests and donations, and shall assist in furthering the purposes of the Foundation in regard to research, education and patient care.

The Board of Visitors held its first meeting on February 1, 1957, for the election of officers. Mr. James A. Anderson of Anderson-Clayton Company, Houston, was elected president. Mr. Anderson is the nephew of the late Monroe D. Anderson, after whom the hospital was named. Mrs. Margaret Tobin, a member of the Board of Regents, San Antonio, was elected Vice-President. Other officers elected were Mr. Carroll Simmons, Houston, treasurer, and Mr. J. M. Odom, Austin, secretary.

Other members of the Board of Visitors are Mr. Warren Bellows, Mr. Harmon Whittington and Mr. Edward Marcus, all of Houston; Mrs. Henry Bailey of Alpine, Mr. Ben R. Barbee of Abilene; and Mr. Prentiss Cobb Hale of San Francisco, California.

THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE UNIVERSITY CANCER FOUNDATION are shown with the hospital's director, Dr. R. Lee Clark, Jr. Left to right: Carroll Simmons, James A. Anderson, President of the Board of Visitors, Harmon Whittington, Ben R. Barbee, Warren Bellows, and seated: Prentiss Cobb Hale, Mrs. Henry Bailey, and J. M. Odom. Not shown are: Mrs. Margaret Tobin and Edward Marcus.

GEOGRAPHIC VOLUNTEER FILE STARTED

The volunteer department has started a "Geographic Volunteer File" at MDAH. The file will consist of names of Houstonians who were born and reared in other Texas cities, and who indicated that they would be willing to visit patients at MDAH. The volunteers will be called upon when the patient is unable to have family or friends visit during the regular visiting hours. It is hoped that the patients will thus benefit by being able to talk of things back home with someone who is familiar with the area. Referring physicians may be able to help by contacting Houstonians they know who might be willing to be included in the file.

A grant of $24,934 was given to support biochemical research at MDAH by the trustees of the Robert A. Welch Foundation.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION APPROVES RESEARCH EXPANSION

The State Legislature has authorized expansion of Tumor Institute research. The resolution allows for construction of an additional 20,000 square feet to the building. The financing will be from private and federal government sources. No part of the cost will be borne by the state. Construction of the five story annex will begin within the next two years, and will be entirely for research.