

# NEWSLETTER

April 2007

Houston, TX

## Announcing The...

JOINT SESSION OF THE XVII<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
of the  
Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society  
and the  
6<sup>TH</sup> CURRENT TRENDS IN  
CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY CONFERENCE  
April 30 - May 3, 2008  
Houston, Texas

Please mark your calendars now for a most exciting event! On April 30-May 3, 2008, we will hold a Joint Session of the XVII<sup>TH</sup> Congress of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society and the 6<sup>TH</sup> CURRENT Trends in Cardiothoracic Surgery Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Houston, Texas. The InterContinental Houston is located in the heart of uptown Houston, less than two blocks from the world-renowned Galleria shopping, entertainment and restaurant complex. The InterContinental Houston is, indeed, a world class hotel for a world class city, and the perfect venue for this Joint Session.

**The CURRENT TRENDS IN CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY** annual conference is a superb forum for exchange of cutting edge scientific ideas. World recognized speakers of the highest caliber are selected to present timely topics.

To begin this exciting event, our opening reception will take place on Wednesday evening, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the new *DeBakey Library and Museum*.

In honor of Doctor DeBakey, permanent and rotating exhibits will showcase his instruments, inventions, awards, papers, and photographs. Videos will bring surgical history alive and bring the future of surgery to the here and now. This beautiful new 52,000 square foot tribute to Doctor DeBakey is scheduled to open in September 2007, so we will be among the very first to enjoy all the Museum and Library has to offer.



Artist' rendering of the DeBakey Library and Museum

This is but one of several special events planned in conjunction with what promises to be a conference of historic proportions. **Please plan to join us for the entire meeting, and enjoy the excellent presentations, renew friendships, and experience the exciting events we're planning for you.**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, ALTON BROWN, M.D.

Dear Society Members:

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to greet you all. In the interim since the 2006 meeting in Houston, the Texas Medical Center and the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery have continued to grow, and thrive. The changes and the activity in Houston are truly impressive. You will be pleased to see that the department has continued to maintain its prominence, and remains relevant in a continuously evolving field of surgery.

Next April 30 – May 3, 2008, the XVII<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society will meet in Joint Session with the 6<sup>th</sup> Current Trends in Cardiothoracic Surgery Conference. This promises to be an especially memorable event, as it will be an opportunity to honor Dr. DeBakey in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. I hope that you will all be able to attend, and encourage you to add your thoughts and memories in a letter to Dr. DeBakey, as requested and described in this Newsletter.

Please encourage your friends and colleagues from training days to join you and us in reunion and celebration. Volunteers as “Team Captains” are encouraged.

I look forward to seeing all of you next Spring in Houston. This meeting promises to be really outstanding as well as great fun.

ALTON G. BROWN, JR., M.D.  
*President, Michael E. DeBakey  
International Surgical Society*

## SOCIETY NEWS

**2006 Biennial Meeting**—In March, 2006, the Society meeting was held at The Houstonian in Houston, Texas, in conjunction with the Total Vascular Aorta I Symposium. Presentations from members were incorporated into the program, which focused on advances in vascular surgery, particularly endovascular treatment of aortic disease. Society members joined in with the other attendees for an evening of fun at the Houston Rodeo.

At the Board Meeting, the following slate of officers was nominated and later approved in the general business meeting.

### 2006-2008 DeBakey Society Officers

President	Alton Brown, Charleston, SC
Vice President	Joseph Coselli, M.D., Houston, TX
Secretary-Treasurer	Kenneth L. Mattox, M.D., Houston, TX

### Board Members 2004-2008

Kevin Accola, Orlando, FL  
Chris Cribari, Ft. Collins, CO  
Kamal Itani, Boston, MA  
Alan Lumsden, Houston, TX  
Alison Steng-Wilson, Dillinger, PA

### Board Members 2006-2010

James Harrell, Jr., Lubbock, TX  
Shirley Lazenby, Opelika, AL  
Ernesto Soltero, Ponce, Puerto Rico  
John Sweeney, Houston, TX  
Matthew J. Wall, Jr., Houston, TX

## WE WANT YOU!



### TO BE A TEAM CAPTAIN FOR THE XVII<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS

With YOUR help, this XVII<sup>th</sup> Joint Congress can be the greatest and largest Society meeting ever held. To optimize dissemination of 2008 conference information and thereby increase participation from around the country and world, we are soliciting “Team Captains” to contact other graduates and trainees who were at Baylor College of Medicine during the same years. In some instances, we will have a Team Captain for a 5-year period of time. The Captains will contact classmates using contact info provided by the Society so you can “rally the troops” in your respective classes to attend the Congress and actively participate in all Congress related activities. This would also be a great opportunity to have class reunions as well. We already have several Year Captains but need many more. **If you want to serve as a Team Captain, please e-mail Doctor Kenneth Mattox at Redstart@aol.com.** You will immediately be supplied a list of your classmates with contact information.

**Annual Reception at the ACS**—On October 9 2006, the Society and Department of Surgery hosted the annual alumni and member reception. The event was held at the Congress headquarter hotel, The Hilton Chicago, and attended by over 200 of Baylor’s past trainees, Society members, and current faculty and trainees.

**The Fifth Annual Current Trends in Cardiothoracic Surgery** will be June 1-2, 2007, at the Houston Intercontinental. Faculty from around the country and known for their expertise will present timely topics. The E. Stanley Crawford Lectureship will be given by Doctor Edward D. Verrier, and Doctor Tirone David will give a Keynote Address. All course hotel and registration information is posted on <http://cme.bcm.tmc.edu/1368>

**Doctor Rafael Espada**, long time figure in the Texas Medical Center and long time member of the Society, has given up his practice at The Methodist Hospital and moved back to Guatemala, where he hopes to help the country on an even larger stage: as its vice president. Doctor Espada is running with Alvaro Colom, 2003’s presidential runner-up in that country’s Sept. 9 election. Although Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberta Menchu’s recently announced candidacy has drawn international attention, the left-of-center Colom-Espada ticket holds a big lead in early polling. Doctor Espada has long been something of a folk hero in Guatemala for his frequent trips home to perform thousands of free surgeries on his fellow countrymen. Said Doctor Espada of his decision, “I can touch 14 million as vice president.” “It’s easy to criticize - ‘This is right, this is wrong’ - but now I can do something for my country.”

# NEWS FROM HOUSTON

**Doctor Michael E. DeBakey**—The big news of the year and the reason for countless inquiries to the Office of the Secretary of the Society relates to Doctor Michael E. DeBakey himself. At his and his family's request, specific details of his illness were understandably not released to the public. However, recently at the ribbon cutting for the DeBakey Library and Museum, Doctor DeBakey attended and was the last of several dignitaries to address the large assembled group. He apologized for being in a motorized wheelchair but assured the group he would soon be separated from it. In his candid, sometimes humorous, comments, he recounted his journey from onset of illness to this occasion.

- Early January 2006 – Acute DeBakey Type I Dissecting aneurysm
- February—Surgery-Graft replacement of the ascending aorta – deep hypothermia and circulatory arrest
- 8 months in the hospital and rehabilitation
- October 2006 – Dismissed from Hospital, plane trip to New York
- October 2006 - Attended ribbon cutting and luncheon for DeBakey Museum and Library

Doctor DeBakey joked that over the years he had been fascinated by this disease and tried to understand it, having written 130 articles on the subject; however, now, having lived through it, he is no longer fascinated nor does he think he understands it any better. At age 97, he is the oldest person to have undergone



Surgeon (Student) & Patient (Teacher)  
George Noon & Michael DeBakey

successful surgery for a DeBakey Type I acute dissection of the ascending aorta. He has resumed many of his writing, advisory, speaking and travel activities. All members of the Michael E. DeBakey International Surgical Society join with Doctor DeBakey's family, professional associates, and thousands of friends in welcoming Doctor DeBakey back to good health.

## What's Happening in the City

**Houston** is now the 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. Downtown continues to develop and thrive, with Minutemaid Stadium, Toyota Center, the George R. Brown Convention Center, and the new Hobby Center for the Performing Arts serving as magnets for sporting events, headline entertainers, plays, and conventions. In conjunction, you will find many fine hotels and restaurants. At the opposite end of Houston's MetroRail is Reliant Stadium and the Reliant Astrodome area, which also continues to develop and draw large crowds for various events, the most recent of which was the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo – still a nightly sell-out event.

Along these lines, the Buffalo Bayou has undergone a \$15 million facelift, including new trails, landscaping and lighting accents – culminating into a downtown waterfront park.

**Five years after Allison**, Houston is still making changes to reduce vulnerabilities realized when this storm drenched Houston in 36 inches of rain, killed 22 people, flooded thousands of homes and much of downtown and the Texas Medical Center, and caused over \$5 billion in damage. The city is working on several drainage projects, many in the hard-hit Medical Center area, that are expected to cost about \$250 million over the next five years. Additionally, \$4 million has been spent on downtown city facilities to reduce dangers revealed by Allison. Private institutions, including Baylor, also have invested funds to protect lives and valuable resources in the event of another similar disaster.

## Texas Medical Center

The landscape of the area known as The Texas Medical Center seems to change almost daily.

Rice University has begun construction on a 477,000-gross-square-foot, 10-story Collaborative Research Center at the corner of Main Street and University Boulevard, which is expected to be completed in 2009. The facility will enable researchers and physicians from Baylor College of Medicine, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, The Methodist Hospital Research Institute, Texas Children's Hospital, and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to team up with Rice University scientists and engineers on bioscience and biotechnology research.

The old site of the Nabisco Factory, now called the McGovern Campus, is now corporate headquarters of the Texas Medical Center and houses research and administrative offices for many of the TMC institutions.

Both Memorial Hermann and The Methodist Hospital have several new structures under construction on both sides of Fannin.

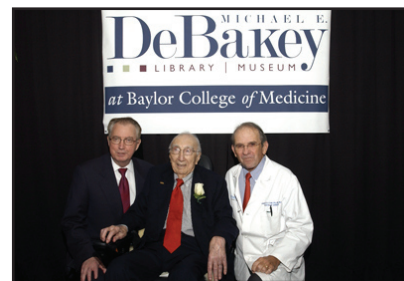
## Contribute To The Book Of Letters For Doctor DeBakey

The 2008 meeting of the Society will be in Houston on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Doctor Michael E. DeBakey's life. During the conference, the Society will present a bound Book of Letters. **Please take this opportunity to write a letter to Doctor DeBakey reflecting on your training in Houston your career, and your views about surgery.** Include in your letter any anecdotes you wish to recount for his enjoyment. All letters will be compiled into a bound volume, which will be presented to Doctor DeBakey in a special ceremony during the conference.

**Please mail or e-mail your letters NOW.** All letters should be submitted on 8.5 x 11" paper and must be received no later than January 15, 2008. The Book of Letters will be a key element of the 2008 conference. Please send your letter to: Mary Allen, One Baylor Plaza/BCM 390, Department of Surgery, Houston, TX 77030 or e-mail to [redstart@aol.com](mailto:redstart@aol.com).

## News from Baylor College of Medicine

**DeBakey Library and Museum**—Baylor College of Medicine honored Dr. Michael E. DeBakey on October 18, 2006, and joined him



Drs. Ken Mattox, Michael DeBakey and Charles McCollum at the Library & Museum Ribbon Cutting Event

in celebrating the start of construction on the Michael E. DeBakey Library and Museum. The facility, on the Baylor campus along East Cullen Street, will chronicle Doctor DeBakey's career. Permanent and rotating exhibits will house his instruments, inventions, awards and honors, 3000 manuscripts chronicling his research, photographs, video displays and a replication of Dr. DeBakey's Conference Room (known as the "Green Room"). Another display replicates a surgery suite used by Dr. DeBakey and will house many inventions designed for him (surgical gurney, respirator, film stand, etc.) Among the highlights is expected to be the sewing machine he used to stitch the first Dacron artificial arteries.

If you would like to learn more about how to support the DeBakey Museum & Library, contact Nancy Davis, director of Development, at 713-798-6194 or ndavis@bcm.edu

**Doctor Major Bradshaw named Interim Founding Dean at University of Botswana**—After 30 years as a dean at Baylor College of Medicine, Doctor Bradshaw has made an unusual career move. He's gone to Botswana, a country in sub-Saharan Africa, to serve as interim dean at University of Botswana's medical school, the first such school in a country with one of the world's worst HIV rates. In November, Baylor signed an affiliation agreement with the University of Botswana, strengthening a relationship begun by Baylor professor Dr. Mark Kline, whose Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative opened a treatment center for HIV-infected children there in 2003. The agreement was to provide consulting and general assistance. The opening of Botswana's medical school could vastly improve health care in the region by training local talent,

increasing the number of doctors who speak the same language as their patients, and providing job opportunities for African medical specialists now working abroad. Doctor Bradshaw will recruit faculty, design the curriculum and help design the new building for the medical school, scheduled to be operating fully by the end of March 2009. He wants to get programs in place fast enough that 60 students entering the University of Botswana's pre-med program in August won't have to leave the country to continue training.

**Baylor Hospital**—In September, 2006, Baylor announced plans to build a 256 bed private, adult hospital on a 35-acre site adjacent to the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, to be finished by 2010. A planned second phase will bring those numbers to 600 beds and 2.7 million square feet. The college's outpatient clinic on South Main will be relocated to the site. Doctor Peter Traber, Baylor's President, said, "Having our own hospital will finally give Baylor the control of its clinical settings that all top medical schools have."

**Katrina Aftermath and BCM**—Katrina shut down Tulane University, but did not stop the tradition of Match Day for displaced fourth-year medical students who continued their studies at Baylor College of Medicine. In a special ceremony accented with Mardi Gras beads, these students learned where they would begin their residencies. "We weren't sure if we were going to be able to have a Match Day with Hurricane Katrina," said Marc J. Kahn, Tulane's associate dean for admissions and student affairs. "This is kind of the Match Day that almost didn't happen. It's a wonderful day."

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## OBITUARIES

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**RUSSELL SCOTT JR.**, Baylor urology pioneer, the first full-time urologist at Baylor College of Medicine and later Chairman of Urology, died May 24, 2006. He was 80. Under Doctor Russell Scott's leadership, the Department of Urology grew to 100 faculty members and staff. In 1987, the department was named in honor of Scott and his wife, Mary Hugh Scott. "Russell Scott was instrumental in establishing one of the nation's leading departments of urology," said William T. Butler, chancellor emeritus and past president of Baylor College of Medicine. "He was the American Urological Association's most important leader in developing educational programs." "He was ahead of his time in developing continuing education." Survivors include a daughter, Agnes Scott Wright, of Houston; two sons, Russell Scott III, of Denver, Colo., and Joseph Arnold Scott, of Aspen; a grandson, Andrew Scott of Aspen, and his former wife, Mary Hugh Scott, of Aspen.

**SALEH MOUSA SHENAQ**, beloved husband, father, surgeon and teacher, died on March 17, 2007, in The Methodist Hospital. Born in 1948 to humble roots in Soam, Jordan, Dr. Shenaq graduated among the top ten students in the country. He went on later to attend medical school at The University of Cairo in Egypt. In 1972, Dr. Shenaq came to the United States to complete his residency in General Surgery at The University of Ohio

and Plastic Surgery at The University of Pittsburgh. Afterward, he completed a Hand Microsurgery Fellowship at The Kleinart Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1995, Dr. Shenaq became Professor and Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and Residency Program Director, while also serving as the Chief of Plastic Surgery at The Methodist and St. Luke's Hospitals. Under his leadership, the Plastic Surgery Program at Baylor became among the top in the country. Dr. Shenaq greatly enjoyed teaching and mentoring the next generation of students and residents, who are now prominent contributors to the field. Passionate about helping others, he later used his skill to treat children with devastating Brachial Plexus Injuries by establishing the Texas Children's Hospital Brachial Plexus Program. Additionally, Dr. Shenaq served as President of The American Society of Peripheral Nerve and American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, Chairman of the Plastic Surgery Research Council, Examiner with the American Board of Plastic Surgery in addition to playing an active role on numerous committees and medical societies. Although extremely dedicated to his professional career, Dr. Shenaq frequently returned home to Jordan to perform charity work, operating on more than one hundred children in the past year with nerve injuries. His greatest source of pride was his family, and he truly enjoyed his

time at home, passing on traditions and ideals to his children. Dr. Shenaq left a great legacy. He will be deeply missed and remembered always. Dr. Shenaq is survived by his parents Jawaher and Mousa Shenaq, wife Dr. Salwa A. Shenaq, three children Deana, Amir and Farris, brothers Kamal, Mahmoud and Dr. Jay Shenaq, and a large extended family.

**NORMAN SHUMWAY**, who performed the first successful heart transplant in U.S. and received the 1986 DeBakey Award, died February 10, 2006, at his Palo Alto home. He was 83. He was known as the father of heart transplantation and one of the pre-eminent heart surgeons of his time. Philip Pizzo, MD, dean of Stanford School of Medicine, called Shumway "one of the 20th century's true pioneers in cardiac surgery." "He developed one of the world's most distinguished departments of cardiothoracic surgery at Stanford, trained leaders who now guide this field throughout the world and created a record of accomplishment that few will ever rival. His impact will be long-lived and his name long-remembered." "We will miss Norm Shumway and the dignity and excellence that he brought to medicine and surgery — and to Stanford." He is survived by his former wife, Mary-Lou, and their four children, the oldest of whom, Sara, directs heart transplantation at the University of Minnesota, where Shumway and Christiaan Barnard once worked together.