NEWS

DR. MICHAEL DEBAKEY RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Pioneering heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by the U.S. Congress, April 23 in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

President George W. Bush presented the medal to DeBakey, 99, who was joined onstage by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and other dignitaries.

"Dr. DeBakey has an impressive resume, but his truest legacy is not inscribed on a medal or etched into stone. It is written on the human heart," said President Bush. "For nearly a hundred years, our country has been blessed with the endless talents and dedication of Dr. Michael DeBakey. And he has dedicated his career to a truly noble ambition - bettering the life of his fellow man."

DeBakey has spent six decades at The Methodist Hospital and is credited with many medical firsts.

Upon receiving the award, DeBakey said, "Again, let me come back to my sense of gratitude and because of my sense of high treasure I have for my citizenship, since receiving this award, my cup runneth over."

Only 196 Congressional Gold Medals have been awarded since 1776, when the first was given to George Washington. With this honor, Dr. DeBakey is in the company of Washington, Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Nelson Mandela, Jackie Robinson, Jonas Salk, Pope John Paul II and others whose lives have made an impact on the world.

For more information about Dr. Michael E. DeBakey and the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, including a list of his "firsts," background on his achievements and photos to download, visit www.debakeyheartcenter.com.

DR. GERALD LAWRIE IS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS DEBAKEY ENDOWED CHAIR

Dr. Gerald Lawrie, cardiothoracic surgeon at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, has received the Michael E. DeBakey Endowed Chair for cardiac surgery.

Lawrie, a pioneer in valvular surgery, invented a technique called the American Correction, with which he has a high success rate for repair of diseased mitral valves. In 2007, Lawrie was the first to use a surgical robot to successfully repair a mitral valve using this advanced technique.

Standard surgeries for this repair involve opening the chest and a subsequent long recovery for patients. Using the robot is a much less invasive technique, so patients suffer fewer complications and return to their normal lives much quicker, Lawrie said.

"Gerald Lawrie is continually contributing to and advancing the field of cardiac surgery," said Dr. Alan Lumsden, chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at The Methodist Hospital in Houston. "His contributions have vastly improved the techniques and skills of his fellow surgeons as well as improving the lives of patients across the world."

Over the course of his career, Lawrie has trained thousands of surgeons on advancements in the repair of mitral valves and treatment of complications associated with this disease. He has more than 250 publications in respected medical journals.

Lawrie also has been actively involved in the development of The Methodist Hospital's new surgical skills training facility called the Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and Education (MITIE™), a virtual hospital and high-tech environment that incorporates imaging, robotics and simulation to

NEWS

enable surgeons and their teams to master new skills. Surgeons come from across the world to watch Lawrie perform surgery with the robot in the operating room and then practice with him in the virtual MITIE environment.

The DeBakey Endowed Chair will help fund research and advancements in the treatment of heart and valvular disease.

WORLD'S NEWEST DRUG-ELUTING STENT IMPLANTED AT THE METHODIST DEBAKEY HEART & VASCULAR CENTER

A more flexible drug-eluting stent studied in clinical trials at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center has been approved by the FDA, and Methodist physicians were the first in Houston to implant the new device.

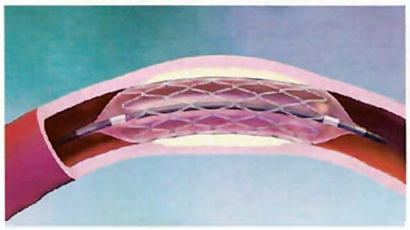
The design of the new stent, the first approved by the FDA in four years, allows it to be placed in hard to reach blockages. Research conducted at Methodist was pivotal in the Phase III trial that led to FDA approval of the stent.

"This stent is unique because it is designed in a way that it can go where other stents can't, such as in twisting, tortuous arteries that are difficult to access. If cardiologists can reach the diseased artery with this stent, we don't have to send the patient to surgery," said Dr. Stuart Solomon, interventional cardiologist at MDHVC and principal investigator on the trial. "Our research has also shown strong results in terms of safety and effectiveness."

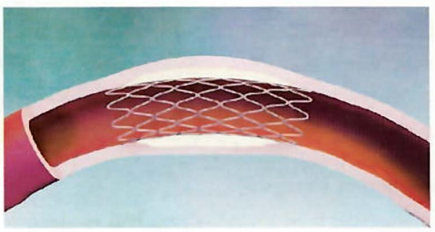
In February, Medtronic's Endeavor stent received FDA approval for treatment of coronary artery disease, which affects 13 million Americans and is the country's leading cause of death.

ABOUT THE ENDEAVOR STUDY

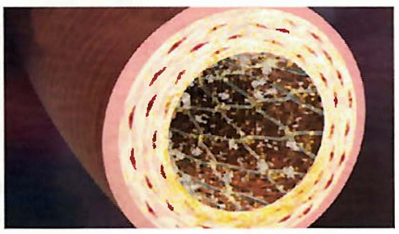
The Endeavor study submitted the largest, most wide-ranging patient population submitted to the FDA in support of a drug-eluting stent, including more than 4,100 patients, followed up for as long as four years. This clinical research has shown that Endeavor provides a consistent and sustained reduction in the need for repeat procedures compared to a bare-metal stent, while also maintaining an excellent safety profile.



Endeavor stent placement



Endeavor stented artery



Endeavor drug elution

Drug-eluting stents are coated with medication (indicated with yellow dots) to reduce the chance of an artery becoming clogged again by slowing the growth of excessive tissue as the artery walls heal following angioplasty. The medication is released, or eluted, into the arterial wall over a period of a few weeks. *Images courtesy of Medtronic, Inc*