

IN THE NEWS



Dr. Alan Lumsden named medical director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center

Dr. Alan Lumsden was recently named medical director of the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center at The Methodist Hospital.

"Lumsden's vision for the heart center will build upon our many accomplishments," said Dr. Miguel Quinones, chair of the Department of Cardiology at The Methodist Hospital and former medical director of the center. "He has developed an international reputation as a leader in the field of endovascular surgery, and he will use that expertise to push the center more toward highly effective, yet less invasive treatments for our patients."

Lumsden, who is also chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at The Methodist Hospital, has research interests in restenosis and

developing newer methods of minimally invasive therapy. He has received more than \$6 million in support for his research from the National Institutes of Health.

Lumsden's clinical expertise is in stent graft treatment of thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA), stenting and surgical treatment for disease of the carotid arteries, and minimally invasive therapy for venous disease.

In 2008, Dr. Lumsden was named chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at The Methodist Hospital and professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Barbara Bush has aortic valve replacement at The Methodist Hospital

Former first lady Barbara Bush recovered from successful heart surgery at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. The aortic valve replacement was scheduled in late February after she experienced shortness of breath and physicians detected a hardened valve in her heart.

"I am very impressed with and grateful to the wonderful team of doctors and nurses at The Methodist Hospital who have helped Barbara," said former President George H. W. Bush during his wife's hospitalization. "We have every confidence she is in the best hands."

Dr. Gerald Lawrie, heart surgeon at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, per-

formed the 2 ½-hour procedure on March 4, 2009, replacing her aortic valve with a biologic valve. A hardened aortic valve needs to be replaced because, when left untreated, it can result in heart failure or sudden cardiac death.

"The surgery went extremely well and we were able to successfully replace her aortic valve," Lawrie said. "I expect her to recover fully and soon resume her normal activities."

The aortic valve is on the left side of the heart. It opens to allow blood to be pumped out of the heart into the body, then closes to prevent blood from flowing back into the heart.

With age, the aortic valve can harden, making it less effective. Bush is 83 years old and in November, she underwent surgery to repair a perforated ulcer.

She is fully recovered from the surgery, and the two medical issues are unrelated.

"This Friday the 13th turned out to be a very lucky one for me, because I was able to go home with George feeling healthy and strong," Mrs. Bush said in a statement after her release from Methodist on March 13, 2009. "Nobody ever had better medical treatment than I did this past week and a half, and I am grateful not only to the doctors, nurses and staff at Methodist for their caring and professionalism — I also want to thank everyone else for their good wishes and especially their prayers."

Dr. Gerald Lawrie

Dr. Gerald Lawrie, cardiothoracic surgeon at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular

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Center in Houston, holds the Michael E. DeBakey Chair in Cardiac Surgery at The Methodist Hospital. He is also the medical director of the Heart Valve Institute at Methodist.

Lawrie is one of the world's most experienced surgeons treating diseased cardiac valves. A pioneer in valvular surgery, Lawrie invented a technique called the American Correction, with which he has a 100 percent

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.

Lawrie has also conducted research on aortic valve replacement in octogenarians. His research, presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions in November 2008, showed that patients over 80 years old had the same good

outcomes as patients much younger.

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



At a press conference, Dr. Gerald Lawrie, heart surgeon at the Methodist DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center in Houston, and former President George H.W. Bush discuss the aortic valve replacement Lawrie performed on former first lady Barbara Bush.