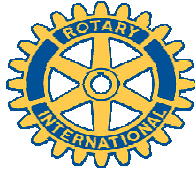


Rotary Club of Galveston - Texas



PILOT



Rotary Newsletter
June 18, 2008

Mike Cowan, President, called the meeting to order. **Kevin Katz** led the invocation, **John Swartwout** led the Pledge of Allegiance and song and **Jerry Mohn** introduced the guests and visitors.

Visiting Rotarian: **Richard DeVries**, Past President of the Texas City Club

Guest: **Bob Skaggs**, guest of Jim McCurdy

Announcements from the Podium

If you last name begins with K or L, June is your month to bring a door prize.

Larry Jendrusch was presented a Paul Harris Fellow Award for his distinguished service to our club and the community. Larry has been club treasurer for the past two years. His vigilance in keeping up with the club budget as well as collections and expenses for the Chili Supper were instrumental in providing our board with up-to-date information and keeping our club financially sound.



Larry Jendrusch, receiving his honorary Paul Harris Fellowship from club President Mike Cowan.

Today's Program:

Jim McCurdy introduced today's speakers, from the Department of Neurology at UTMB: Kurt Rodin, department administrator and Dr. Nancy Robinson, practicing neurologist recently from private practice in Clear Lake area (St. Johns rehab center, since closed).

Mr. Rodin opened with an overview of the Dept of Neurology and its vision of the brain as the last frontier of the body. UTMB is particularly concerned with chronic neurologic disease which has a major impact as the population ages. Neurological disease impacts communities both from acute diseases, including trauma and stroke and chronic diseases, particularly Alzheimer's and Parkinsonism.

UTMB has 21 faculty, both physicians and researchers; 14 are clinicians and 7 research. Research is basic, translational (applying basic research to the general population as quickly as possible) and clinical.

The Department Chair is Dr. Ashizawa, coming from Baylor, has increased the emphasis on research, and increased grant funding from NIH; UTMB now ranked 39 in federal funding as opposed to 59th last year research is primarily on Huntington's disease, ataxia and Parkinson's.

- Neurology Department also offers a 3-year residency program (have filled next year with 9 residents) and offers post-doc training.

- Clinical services—full service acute care and adult neurology clinics in both Galveston and Clear Lake. Participates in the tele-medicine health services. Also specialized clinics in Headache and will be opening new clinics in seizures.

- Dr. Soto—specialty is research. Particular interests in Alzheimer's, neurodegenerative diseases, and the neural basis of addiction. Presently have 20 clinical trials—including drugs for MS (converting to tablets instead of IV administration); drugs for neuromuscular diseases, and seizure control drugs.

Dr. Robinson talked about the treatment of CNS and peripheral neuromuscular diseases. She is specifically interested in headaches, particularly migraines. She also discussed new seizure medications and metabolic syndrome as related to stroke and neurological disease. She discussed research on the relation of polycystic ovaries and the predisposition to diabetes, metabolic syndrome and neurologic disease.

Traumatic brain injury requires team treatment. Governmental decrease in support for rehab may require legislation to increase the availability of treatment.



From left, Kirk Roden, Dr. Nancy Robinson— Guest Speakers (UTMB Dept of Neurology) and Rotarian Jim McCurdy.