



INSIDE...

**Stem Cell
Find****WMTS
Registration**

*James Gregg
President - ETBA*

President's Corner

James Gregg

Greetings ETBA. Members have told me how much they enjoyed hearing the Project C.U.R.E story at Indian Path Medical Center in Kingsport at the June membership meeting. Those of you who want more information on Project C.U.R.E can visit their website at www.projectcure.org. They do good work. Support them any way you can.

It's not too early to be thinking about nominations for the 2005 ETBA board of officers that will be elected at our December membership meeting. Nominations can be made on the website at www.etbiomed.org or contact Larry Morton or any other ETBA officer. Please talk to your nominee before submitting his/her name.

For the first time since I've been a member of the association we will have our membership meeting in Chattanooga at Erlanger Medical Center. Our Chattanooga ETBA members have put a lot effort into this meeting. I hope to see as many ETBA members as possible car pooling to the meeting. See you there!

Remember HDTV?

Randy Bueckman

Back in the '90s, ETBA hosted a program on HDTV. At that time, no one was exactly sure how it was going to play out. There were 28 possible variations on how digital tv could be transmitted using the bandwidth allotted for each channel - only a couple of which could be considered HDTV.

Well, just about all the television stations in Knoxville are transmitting DTV signals. Televisions are available that will display HDTV and many are offered with dual tuners (at an additional cost) So why was it reported recently that 99% of Americans still watch analog TV?

According to the article I read, it was because it costs \$300 or more for a digital tuner. Cable companies are charging more for digital set top boxes. And low end wide-screen televisions start at \$1,500. I know I am waiting for the prices to fall before I buy!

New Stem Cell Find

Randy Bueckman

Master cells found deep inside hair follicles might offer a new way to treat baldness and burn victims. That is great news for some of us with receding or non-existent hair lines! Of course, burn victims will be the major benefactor of this find.

Researchers at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and The Rockefeller University in New York found stem cells in the hair follicles of mice. One of the researchers, William Lowry said, "We found that the surface of the skin stem cells was different than the other cells of the skin, enabling us to use two different antibodies to sort them out from the other skin cells. No one had been able to isolate stem cells from the hair follicle in this way before." Genetic manipulation was used in previous attempts to identify strictly the stem cells.

These are adult stem cells which are immature master cells that have the ability to change into other types of cells. There has been a lot of controversy over the harvesting of embryonic stem cells from abortions. The embryonic stem cells are considered easier to coax into becoming other types of cells. One benefit of using adult stem cells would be the fact that these cells could be taken from one's own body eliminating the rejection normally seen in transplanted tissue and organs.

Elaine Fuchs, a cell biologist at Rockefeller led the study. She said, "We've identified cells within skin that bear all the characteristics of true stem cells -- the ability for self-renewal and the multipotency required to differentiate into all lineages of epidermis and hair."

Hopefully, the new method of separating stem cells from other cell types can be used to find other stem cells throughout the body. Who knows, in a few years we may be able to grow entire organs eliminating the need for transplant surgeries!

Registration of Wireless Telemetry Equipment

James Gregg

In 2000, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) dedicated a portion of the radio spectrum for wireless medical telemetry devices such as wireless heart, blood pressure and respiratory monitors. The creation of the Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS) was a direct result of the AHA' s and ASHE' s advocacy to the FCC about our concerns of how electromagnetic interference with wireless medical telemetry equipment can affect patient safety. When the FCC created the WMTS band, the agency extended the freeze on issuing licenses to high power users for three years to allow hospitals time to migrate from the 460-470 MHz band. Recognizing hospitals' difficulty in transitioning to WMTS because of limited resources and a lack of equipment on the market, ASHE and the AHA worked with the FCC and leaders of the private land mobile radio service (PLMRS) community to reach a consensus agreement extending the freeze until December 31, 2005. The FCC announced this last and final extension of the bandwidth freeze in its July 8 Public Notice. In addition to extending the bandwidth freeze, the FCC' s Public Notice reminded the field that hospitals are required to register their telemetry equipment and frequencies through ASHE.

Registration of Equipment Still Operating in 460-470 MHz band

To avoid harmful interference, hospitals must migrate their wireless medical telemetry equipment out of the 460-470 MHz band by December 31, 2005 or be licensed under Part 90 of the FCC rules. To identify all hospital users still operating in 460-470 MHz band, and track the migration from the band, or licensing under Part 90, hospitals still using 460-470 MHz telemetry equipment must register their equipment with ASHE by September 24, 2004. Once the registration process is completed and a one time fee of \$250.00 is paid, hospitals will receive a coordination certificate with a summary of your registered deployments.

Registration of Equipment Operating in WMTS Band

Equipment operating in the WMTS bands (608-614 MHz, 1395-1400 MHz, and 1427-1432 MHz) is operating under primary status, and therefore, protected from interference by other devices. WMTS is the only frequency spectrum designated exclusively for wireless medical telemetry systems. Hospitals deploying telemetry systems in the WMTS bands must ensure that device registration has been completed before the equipment is operational. You must provide information on the hospital or main facility where wireless medical telemetry equipment will be installed and pay a one-time administrative fee of \$125 to establish each account. Health systems will need to establish an account for each hospital. You will receive a coordination certificate with a summary of your registered deployments.

Frequency Coordinators

The FCC designated ASHE as its medical telemetry frequency coordinator. In that role, ASHE will maintain a database of WMTS transmitters and notify users of potential frequency conflicts. For more information about ASHE' s role as frequency coordinator, please visit www.ashe.org <<http://www.ashe.org/>> or contact John Collins, Director of Engineering Compliance, at (312) 422-3805 or jcollins@aha.org <<mailto:jcollins@aha.org>>.

Please contact the AHA' s Mary Beth Savary Taylor at msavary@aha.org <<mailto:msavary@aha.org>>, (202) 626-2270, or ASHE' s Dale Woodin at dwoodin@aha.org <<mailto:dwoodin@aha.org>>, (312) 422-3812 if you have questions about hospitals' use of telemetry equipment and patient safety.

**September Membership Meeting
September 21, 2004 at 6:30 PM. Hosted by
Erlanger Medical Center**

Dinner will be served beginning at 6:30 PM. Food will be coming from The Rib and Loin

(Greg says, "it is worth driving 100 miles for this!")

GE will be providing service training on the Pro Series NIBP monitors earlier in the day. Please contact Greg Goll at Erlanger if you would like to attend. (See the ETBA web site)

Ge will provide a speaker on PatientNet® Spread Spectrum Technology for the ETBA Membership Meeting that evening! Did I mention dinner is provided?

PatientNet® is a technologically advanced wireless patient monitoring system. It operates in the protected Wireless Medical Telemetry Service (WMTS) frequencies, so vital patient information always comes through clearly and reliably. PatientNet is packed with clinically advanced features that make it easy to monitor patients at a glance and review their progress in detail. PatientNet wirelessly collects patient information through PatientNet Ambulatory Transceivers, and integrates it into a common, visually appealing user interface. PatientNet utilizes advanced frequency-hopping, bi-directional spread-spectrum technology, designed specifically to operate in the WMTS frequencies which virtually eliminates dropped signals and interference.



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Inside:

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