More than 4,000 clinical professionals from around the globe have witnessed a live pediatric hemispherectomy performed during a webcast on October 4, 2006, at the Neuroscience Institute at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center.

Hemispherectomy, a combination of surgical removal and disconnection of one half of the brain, is performed in children who have a damaged cerebral hemisphere causing epilepsy. The procedure leads to seizure control in about 80 percent of patients. Half need to remain on their medications indefinitely; the other half can slowly be tapered off their seizure drugs after being seizure-free for 12 months.

In many cases, especially with children, the remaining functioning portion of the brain takes over the tasks that were previously controlled by the portion of the brain that has been removed. This often leads to increased quality of life and elimination of seizures.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Frederick Boop, Medical Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center while Dr. James Wheless, Medical Director of the Neuroscience Institute at Le Bonheur hosted the program and answered e-mail questions. More than 50 questions were submitted during the live broadcast and requests for more information came from as far away as Australia.

An archive of the Pediatric Hemispherectomy webcast is available for viewing anytime at www.lebonheur.org. Additionally, The Methodist University Hospital – Neuroscience Institute has several archived surgical webcasts archived on http://neuro.methodisthealth.org. Currently available are: Brain Tumor Surgery/GliaSite Radiation Therapy featuring Allen K. Sills Jr., M.D., METRx Herniated Disc Repair featuring Kevin T. Foley, M.D. and Pediatric Vagus Nerve Stimulation featuring Fredrick A. Boop, M.D.

The Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute serves as a regional and national center for the evaluation and treatment of infants, children and adolescents with neurological disorders. The Neuroscience Institute comprises a variety of services including the brain tumor program, neurosurgery, Level IV Epilepsy Center and care for children with traumatic brain injury and sleep disorders. With expertly skilled neurosurgeons and neurologists, Le Bonheur is one of only a few pediatric centers in the country able to perform a hemispherectomy. In addition, Le Bonheur Neuroscience Institute is home to the largest surgical brain tumor program in the country and has among the highest gross resection rates in the country.

Le Bonheur Children’s Medical Center, a part of the Methodist Healthcare family, is the Mid-South’s first and only comprehensive pediatric medical facility, with 225 beds and a medical staff of more than 500. More than 130,000 children throughout the region are treated annually on an inpatient or outpatient basis. Children are referred to Le Bonheur from all over the United States and throughout the world.
The dynamic partnership of the Methodist University Hospital – Neuroscience Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Instituto Nazionale Neurologico Carlo Besta (Carlo Besta Neurological Institute) came together once again for a one-of-a-kind event that will help shape the future of neuro-oncology.

On August 24 & 25, 2006, physicians and nurses from around the globe converged on Memphis for the Neuro-Oncology Update, a neuro-oncology event like no other. The program, designed to educate neurosurgeons, neurologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, neuropathologists, neuroradiologists, internists, nurses and researchers, was a fascinating forum for the discussion of leading-edge concepts and techniques in a unique, fast-paced and interactive environment.

Educational highlights included everything from a panel discussion of unique cases to breakout sessions for surgical strategies, basic sciences, nursing and clinical developments.

Please visit http://neuro.methodisthealth.org for more information on future educational events and to join our mailing list.

Successful 5th Annual International Neuro-Oncology Update Held in Memphis

Unique two-day collaboration event for physicians and nurses met with rave reviews

Allen K. Sills Jr., M.D., welcomes a full house at the 5th Annual International Neuro-Oncology Update

“The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas.”

- A Whitney Griswold

The 2007 Neuro-Oncology Update meeting will be held June 28 - 30 in Arezzo, Italy.

For more information including a course program and online registration package, please visit www.sinch2007-neurosurgery.com.
A Virtual BrainStorm in 2007

The demand for quality, up-to-the-minute information continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and the Methodist University Hospital - Neuroscience Institute is committed to keeping pace with that need. That’s why BrainStorm will be moving from its traditional printed format to a more timely and interactive version, BrainStorm Online, in 2007.

BrainStorm Online, set to debut in January, aims to combine the best features of the Internet with its classic approach to feature articles, announcements and event listings. The move to an online version will enable the MUH-NI to share pertinent information with greater immediacy instead of waiting for the next publication date. Direct links to the featured physicians, services and research trials along with unrestricted content length and flexible deadlines make for a promising future.

“We want BrainStorm Online to be a powerful tool in the treatment of neurological patients. The direction Methodist is headed with this publication really speaks to its commitment to provide physicians and patients with the best technology has to offer,” said Allen K. Sills Jr., M.D., medical director of the MUH-NI.

To subscribe to BrainStorm Online, please complete the enclosed response card or visit http://neuro.methodisthealth.org. All new subscribers who register before the end of the year will receive a free gift.

Impulses:
Stimulating clinical advancements at the Methodist Neuroscience Institute

The Methodist University Hospital Neuroscience Institute is dedicated to maintaining a practical balance of teaching, research and patient care under one roof to offer the maximum benefit to patients. In addition to the clinical trials featured elsewhere in this publication, the following trials are also underway at the MUH-NI:

• A Phase I/II trial of maximal resection, local radiation boost with concomitant temozolomide, followed by external radiation therapy with concomitant temozolomide for the treatment of newly diagnosed glioblastoma multiforme (Allen K. Sills Jr., M.D., Principal Investigator)

• Randomized, double-blind trial comparing the effects of a 3-month clopidogrel regimen, combined with ASA during the first month, versus ASA alone for the acute treatment of patients with TIA or minor stroke (James Wang, M.D., Principal Investigator)

For more information on these, or any of the many clinical trials currently underway, please visit http://neuro.methodisthealth.org and click on Research.

“If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.”

- Milton Berle

Grand Rounds to host UAB Physician

Methodist University Hospital will host Sin Joong Oh, M.D., during Grand Rounds on Friday, December 8, 2006, at 9 a.m. Dr. Oh is a professor of pathology in the Department of Neurology at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and the medical director of the Department of Clinical Neuro-Physiology at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Oh will present a lecture titled “Clinical and Electrophysiological Spectrum of MG and LEMS: the UAB Experience.”
Of All The Nerve
Notable News from around the Methodist Neuroscience Institute

• The MUH-NI was well represented at the **2006 Congress of Neurological Surgeons Annual Meeting** in Chicago. Among others, Frederick Boop, M.D., Jon H. Robertson, M.D. and Allen K. Sills Jr., M.D., all physicians from Methodist and Semmes-Murphey, were speakers at the conference.

• The MUH-NI is proud to welcome Hamid Mortazavi, M.D., with Wesley Neurology Clinic, P.C. to Memphis. Dr. Mortazavi specializes in neuromuscular and movement disorders.

• We’d like to thank The Academy… **“The Power of Hope, the Miracle of Healing”**, a documentary on the MUH-NI that follows the stories of four patients over the course of one week, won a 2006 Telly Award in the Documentary category. To order a free copy of “The Power of Hope, the Miracle of Healing,” please e-mail gatewoom@methodisthealth.org.

• The MUH-NI website has a new look this fall – visit [http://neuro.methodisthealth.org](http://neuro.methodisthealth.org) and check out our new and improved site with an updated look and improved navigation. Future enhancements include content revisions, video libraries and more.