

Heart transplant pioneer impatient with progress

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Heart surgeon Denton A. Cooley said Monday he's growing impatient with the slow progress being made with artificial heart transplants, a field he pioneered with the first such operation 25 years ago.

"I'm pleased with it (the progress)," said Cooley, 75. "But I'm still rather impatient that it hasn't been more rapid. I would like to see some of these problems solved during my professional lifetime, not wait until after the turn of the century."

It was April 4, 1969, when Cooley and his associates at the Texas Heart Institute implanted a totally artificial heart into the chest of Haskell Karp, a 47-year-old printing estimator from Skokie, Ill. Karp lived for three days on the device and then received a human heart transplant. He died a day later when infection and tissue rejection set in.

used by 1980, not as bridge mechanisms, but as replacements for human hearts entirely.

Twenty-five years later, better prototypes and spinoff devices have been developed, but no patient has been sustained by them for very long. Dr. Robert Jarvik implanted his artificial heart in Seattle dentist Barney Clark at the University of Utah on Dec. 2, 1982.

The heart, driven by an air pump the size of a washing machine, kept Clark alive for 112 days and boosted hopes for a new era of treatment, but the technology stalled by the end of the decade.

The Jarvik heart had been intended as a permanent replacement, but the Federal Drug Administration changed its stance after four other patients developed complications and died.

It authorized the device only as a bridge.

From 1985 through 1991, the hearts were implanted in 187 patients awaiting transplant, and 56 of those patients survived a year.

Six panhandle colleges join forces

Schools unite to give students better services, save money

The Associated Press

GOODWELL, Okla. — Six colleges in the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas have joined forces to form a higher education consortium aimed at giving students better services and saving money.

"You look at the map and you can easily see that the Texas Panhandle and the Oklahoma Panhandle are really isolated," said Mark E. Workman, director of computer information at Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas.

"Why, we think of Panhandle State as a member of our group rather than closely affiliated with Oklahoma State University," Workman said.

"We're right out here with them. We need to be one happy family," says Panhandle State president Ron Meek.

Panhandle State University in Goodwell has joined with five Texas colleges to form the new Higher Education Consortium of Texas and Oklahoma.

In addition to Frank Phillips, the Texas colleges are West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Clarendon College; Amarillo College and Texas State Technical College in Amarillo.

Panhandle State is part of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College system that has the same board of regents as Oklahoma State.

The agreement for the consortium was reached in February after administrators and faculty from the six colleges studied the need for it for about a year. The consortium members met last week.

T.H.E. Consortium, as it is called, allows the six institutions to pool resources and cut down on course duplication, Workman said.

He said the schools will work to minimize problems that students might encounter when transferring from one institution to another or transferring from one program to another. The consortium has an articulation and

transfer committee.

Four of the schools are junior colleges. Panhandle State and West Texas A&M are four-year universities.

A proposed "two-plus-two" program would allow students to take freshman and sophomore classes at a junior college and then finish a baccalaureate degree at Panhandle State or West Texas A&M.

Panhandle State encourages transfers in the areas of business, computer sciences and industrial arts.

"We need to concentrate on our specialties and eliminate turf considerations," Meek said.

He insists that the six schools were made for a cooperative spirit.

"You drive around this area and you discover quickly that there's a commonality out here," he said. "We have the same value systems, the same economic base, the same cultural ties, the same pioneer spirit."

Secretary

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tion, is a former lobbyist in the city of Dallas and was a member to former U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas.

He is the second black person to be secretary of state. The first was a woman, Myra McPherson, who was named by former Governor Mark White.

Both Kirk and Richardson who appointed him to the position, John Hannah, who was named federal judge — noted his past had a strong commitment to civil and voting rights. His father, Andrew Kirk, has died; his mother, Willie Mae Kirk, shared a home with Richards, lawmakers, other Kirk family members and her son's swearing-in.

"He's going to be administering the election and voting rights laws that his father worked very hard to pass," Richards said. "And there is no doubt in my mind that he is going to do a very good job because his momma would have it any other way."

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