Plans under way for Gold Line light-rail station near City of Hope campus

by Pat Kramer

City of Hope is playing a key role in the upcoming Foothill extension of the Metro Gold Line, which is expected to open in about five years.

Planners expect that visitors and staff members will be able to reach City of Hope through the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's light rail system by 2012, potentially saving transportation costs and improving commuting convenience.

Since the train's platform will be located alongside Duarte Road, just east of the northeast corner of the City of Hope campus in Duarte, Calif., City of Hope's representatives have been especially active in the local station's creation.

Sue Wyninegar, account group manager in communications, served as a member of the Gold Line Station Design and Art Review Committee, which helped prepare the Duarte station's design. As part of the eight-member group of community and business leaders, she spent two months screening more than 25 artists who sought to design the station. The committee chose Stanton Gray Sears and Andrea Myklebust, two esteemed Midwestern artists, for the Duarte station's design.

Wyninegar then helped review the artists' final work, attended community meetings on the project and helped revise the designs based on community input.

The Duarte Gold Line station will provide travelers with open-ended shelters set on bronze and stone columns that depict Duarte's past as a Western town built on a riverbed surrounded by orange groves.

The Gold Line will provide light rail service to Duarte.

Wyninegar recently received a certificate of appreciation from the City of Duarte for her participation in the Gold Line project.

"Working with the artists and representing City of Hope on the art design committee was a great honor," said Wyninegar. "I was pleased with the artists' design, and I believe that when the project is completed, it will lend a new element of beauty and increased access to patients, visitors, employees and others who come to visit City of Hope."

Sue Hodor, public affairs director for the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority, estimates that construction on the extension will begin in 2009. Duarte will be part of an 11.4-mile line that will extend from today's easternmost Gold Line station — Sierra Madre Villa in Pasadena — to a station off Citrus Avenue in eastern Azusa.

When that is completed, work will begin on a second extension, which will continue east another 12.5 miles to the Montclair station in San Bernardino County.

The current Gold Line reaches as far southwest as Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. Travelers may currently travel between any two stations on the Gold Line for $1.25.

"The value the Gold Line provides is a lifestyle change for residents and visitors to the area," said Hodor. "It will take cars off the freeways, and some people may begin to choose locations to live and work that are more easily accessible by light rail. In those regards, I see the Gold Line as providing increased value."

For more information about the extension, visit www.foothillextension.org.

Stem cells: Researchers hope two-part system may reduce chemotherapy's toxicity to healthy cells

Continued from page 1

It first infiltrates tumors, and then activates a chemotherapeutic drug, thereby providing a killing effect at the tumor site — or sites, if the tumor has spread.

The technique takes advantage of the tendency for invasive tumors to attract neural stem cells.

The results hold promise for treating solid tumors that metastasize, including neuroblastoma, which represents 6 to 10 percent of all childhood cancers worldwide, with higher proportions in children under age 2.

"The results are especially important in the case of high-risk neuroblastoma, because

Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the Neidorf Family Foundation, the Marcus Foundation and ALSAC (American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities).

Stem cells' spreading targets

Researchers hope that modified neural stem

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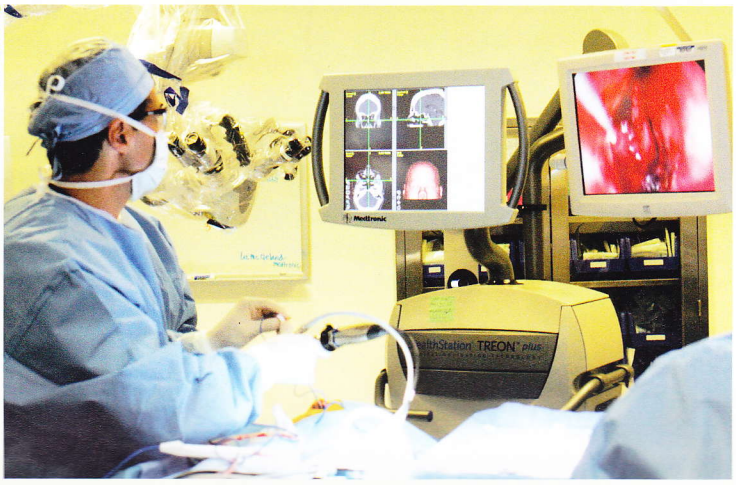
Brain Tumor Program surgeons offer gentler, less painful route for pituitary procedures

by Pat Kramer and Alicia Di Rado

Some 5,000 years ago, ancient Egyptians were the first to operate through the nasal passages. Their surgical device: a special hook that, when inserted through a nostril, allowed morticians to remove brain matter for the mummification process.

Fortunately, surgery has advanced over the millennia.

Phil Channing



Behnam Badie operates on pituitary tumors endoscopically through the nose, resulting in less post-operative pain for patients.

Today, neurosurgeons such as Behnam Badie, M.D., director of the Brain Tumor Program at City of Hope, have perfected highly sophisticated techniques to operate on the brain through the nose, using minimally invasive strategies to remove pituitary tumors as gently as possible.

Badie has unique expertise in the strategy, dubbed the endonasal transsphenoidal approach. An authority on the technique, he has published a number of articles on the topic, including a chapter in the "Neurosurgical Operative Atlas — Neuro-Oncology," an American Association of Neurological Surgeons textbook he recently edited.

As Badie explains, tumors and cysts may arise in the pituitary gland or in the tissue surrounding it, called the sellar region. The area lies behind the nose and sinus. Although only 10 to 15 percent of all brain tumors are pituitary tumors, and most of these are benign, they can cause troublesome hormonal and neurological symptoms that can be relieved through surgery.

But few have the surgical mastery and equipment to operate using the latest, most precise endonasal methods, which offer advantages over earlier approaches.

"For years, surgeons were using what we call the sublabial-transseptal approach, where incisions are made through the upper lip and the septum of the nose — the cartilage — to access the brain," said Badie, who has performed more than 200 pituitary procedures. "This offered less facial scarring than earlier techniques, but patients still experienced post-surgical trauma. And patients could be left with septal perforation and permanent damage to the sinuses."

The newer endonasal approach, developed within the last decade, unites the visual precision of a slim, tiny camera, called an endoscope, with the power of a navigation system, magnetic resonance imaging and highly specialized microscopes. The equip-

See **Badie** *page 3*

Breast Cancer P welcomes new on

by Kathleen O'Neil

Cathie T. Chung, M.D., Ph.D., appointed to the breast oncology Division of Medical Oncology & Research at City of Hope.

An experienced clinician and r Chung will help develop new the women with breast cancer, whet est stages or its latest. She previo assistant clinical professor in the Henrietta C. Lee Breast Center a Comprehensive Cancer Center.

"We are delighted to have Dr. breast center's world-class team," Somlo, M.D., co-director of the Program and director of breast c in the Division of Medical Onco Therapeutics Research. "She has reputation as a clinician and will guidance and support to our pat out their courses of treatment."

At City of Hope, Chung will foc ing clinical trials and growing City database of breast cancer cases for

After earning a doctorate in ph University of Illinois, Chung beg career at the National Institutes where she studied signal transdu

Alicia Di Rado