

FARMINGTON
NOTES

Man for counties

Donn Wolf, Republican Oakland County Commissioner from the Farmington area, was elected president of the Michigan Association of Counties at the recent statewide meeting of the organization.

A surprise visitor to the inauguration was Gov. John Engler, who congratulated Wolf and assured the 300 delegates that his office welcomes his comments.

The purpose of the Michigan Association of Counties is the betterment of county and local governments through cooperative and mutual efforts in formulating legislative proposals and research and educational programs, said Wolf, a former Farmington Hills mayor.

Its members also maintain close working relationships with federal, state and local units of governments, he added.

The organization was formed in 1898. All of Michigan's 83 counties are members.

Sweepstakes winner

Margaret Layne of Farmington won the Kmart Mammogram Sweepstakes. She received a first prize of \$500 in the Kmart gift certificates. She is one of 71 winners from across Michigan.

"It was great — be awfully nice for extra Christmas presents," said Layne. "The contest emphasized the importance of mammograms for women."

The Mammogram Sweepstakes, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Public Health and Michigan Kmart pharmacies, was part of a campaign to help increase awareness of the need for early breast cancer detection.

Researcher
leads attack
on cancer

■ A Farmington Hills resident oversees the research and laboratory programs at the Michigan Cancer Foundation in Detroit.

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER



In more than one way, well-known cancer researcher Awtar Krishan is back tracking in his search for a cure.

When the Farmington Hills resident left tropical Miami to oversee the laboratory and research programs at the Michigan Cancer Foundation in Detroit, he didn't think of snow drifts and subzero temperatures.

Instead, he envisioned MCF's sterling reputation as a research center and the opportunity to see firsthand results at neighboring Harper Hospital.

"Otherwise, isn't it supposed to be the other way around?" said Krishan with a slight laugh about the unconventional move north.

Krishan's investigational method into what causes cancer is also taking a step back.

He's involved in gene therapy, going to the root of why certain tumors are resistant to drugs. As a result of such breakthrough research, three cancer-fighting drugs are on clinical trial at the moment.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMELTZ

With the expert: Several students — (clockwise from left) LaTrese Loftin of Detroit, Rita Khaneja of Bloomfield Hills and Rachel Ekizian of Southfield — look through medical journals with cancer researcher Awtar Krishan.

Like a bouncer

Through gene therapy, researchers have not only found why certain tumors fend off drugs but have devised an end-run around the mechanism.

"The protein's job is like a bouncer in a bar," said Krishan, who came to North America in 1952 from India. "It sees a drug; it kicks it out."

"What we and others have found out is that you can fool this pump. You can give some of the drug to keep the pump busy while the tu-

mor gets a higher amount of the drug."

Such knowledge is one piece of the puzzle in the overall battle against a disease that affects one out of four Americans.

Cancer comes in many forms. And with those are twice as many possible cures, some legitimate and some not.

"These are not new," Krishan said. "People out of desperation will hang onto anything."

See RESEARCHER, 11A



Awtar Krishan

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