

Swedish Helps Establish Epilepsy Center at Hospital in China

Swedish and Dalian Medical University — a health-care

system in northeastern China — have entered into a partnership to establish an epilepsy center in the city of Dalian. Representatives from both health-care organizations signed the agreement Sept. 6 at Swedish.

As part of the partnership, Swedish will donate eight epilepsy-monitoring units to the center, which is scheduled to open in early 2008, and provide comprehensive training in epilepsy surgery to a neurosurgeon from China.

The partnership

grew out of a strong interest on the part of the chief executive officer (CEO) of Dalian Medical University to open a comprehensive epilepsy center at his hospital.

“The CEO of Dalian had a friend whose daughter had seizure disorder epilepsy,” says Duane Dobrowits, director of VIP and Physician Services at Swedish. “There was no epilepsy center in northeastern China, and the child died from seizures.”



Representatives from Swedish and China-based Dalian Medical Center signed an official agreement on Sept. 6. Pictured (left to right): Jian Yin, M.D.; Former Gov. Gary Locke; Tian Xiaofeng, M.D.; and Rod Hochman, M.D., Swedish president and CEO.

A team from Swedish — Dobrowits, epilepsy surgeon Ryder Gwinn, M.D., and Judy Morton, chief quality officer — visited Dalian Medical University to share information about the epilepsy and quality programs at Swedish. “Their CEO was very interested in quality management methods being used at Swedish,” says Morton. During the visit, both parties agreed to work together to establish the Dalian epilepsy center.

care is becoming increasingly global,” says Morton. “This partnership will open up other opportunities in terms of patient referrals and exchanges. Just as importantly, it provides a great opportunity for our staff — who are doing wonderful things — to share their expertise and contribute to improving health around the world.”

“In China, there is a huge unmet need for the care of patients with epilepsy,” says Dr. Gwinn. “There are literally thousands of patients who could benefit from surgery for epilepsy.” A neurosurgeon from China will come to Swedish for three months to train with Dr. Gwinn. “He’s a very well-educated neurosurgeon, but in Dalian, even the most trained neurosurgeons don’t have a lot of advanced knowledge in operating on patients with epilepsy.”

The partnership is part of Swedish’s strategy to develop relationships around the world that result in growth. “Health