

New Honor for Eminent Cardiac Surgeon Cherian

Eminent cardiac surgeon Dr K M Cherian, has been designated as the President of World Society of Cardio Thoracic Surgeons (WSCTS) for the year 2010-2011.

This is the first time this privilege has been given to an Indian. The honor was bestowed upon Dr

Cherian following the outstanding success of the combined event of WSCTS 20th World Congress and sixth Global Forum on Humanitarian Medicine held here.

“I am immensely pleased with this honor. This academic event has been an extraordinary platform to showcase our commitment towards

basic cardiac sciences, research and environmental protection. It’s a proud moment to be the first Indian to receive this honor,” Dr Cherian said.

The Presidency will be handed over to Prof Roland Hetzer of Berlin in 2011-2012. ■

Austin Researcher a Dual Award Winner

Austin Health researcher Radwa Badawy has received two prizes for her ground-breaking research into what causes people with epilepsy to have seizures.

Dr Badawy is this year’s recipient of both the Chancellor’s Prize for Excellence in the PhD Thesis and one of only five students to win the Dean’s Award for Excellence in a PhD Thesis from the University of Melbourne.

Both awards recognise Dr Badawy’s extensive work

investigating the physiology of epilepsy using transcranial magnetic stimulation, a non-invasive and painless technique of looking into the brain. Dr Badawy’s innovative studies enabled her to identify what happens in the brain leading up to a seizure and what happens after a seizure occurs. Dr Badawy examined factors known to exacerbate seizures that were poorly understood before, such as time of day and sleep deprivation.

Her studies also explored what happens when patients start taking medication and why some people

respond well to medication while others do not. Dr Badawy said the aim of her work is to understand more about epilepsy and apply this understanding clinically to monitor early diagnosis as well as response to medication.

‘Epilepsy is a very common disease,’ Dr Badawy said. ‘It’s very distressing for patients and their families. To help these patients with our research would be the biggest achievement for me,’ she said. ■