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Boston University School of Medicine News



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Hubert H. Humphrey, III, attorney general of Minnesota, was the main speaker at a dinner in Washington, D.C. recently, which was held to acquaint guests with Boston University School of Medicine's cancer research center.

Humphrey has been instrumental in furthering the mission of the Center which is named in honor of the attorney general's father, the late U.S. Senator and Vice President.

The Center is an interdisciplinary body of more than 100 physicians and other faculty at Boston University. Members of its several working groups are probing the mechanisms underlying the causes of cancer, including cancerous changes that may be brought about by chemicals, forms of irradiation, and certain viruses and hormones. They are also studying cancer-causing chemicals in the environment and in the workplace.

In addition, Humphrey Center scientists are examining the relationship between nutrition and cancer, particularly with respect to the effects of diet on the immune system.

Other cancer research programs under way at the Center include studies on the biology of the cancer cell, the reaction of the host's immune system to cancer, and such treatment methods as chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, and immunotherapy.

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Humphrey/22222

Humphrey told the guests at the dinner that "thanks to the Center's outreach programs with hospitals, we have improved the understanding and treatment of cancer. Nurses, social workers, medical fellows, residents and doctors at other institutions are now able to treat patients with more intelligence, more humanity, and more dignity. Those are also words my father understood and loved."

The attorney general added that "If there were any way I could walk beside my father today through the facilities of the new Cancer Research Center that bears his name, his face would light up with hope at what he was seeing."

Among the guests at the event, which was held at the F Street Club, was Joseph Tessmer, executive assistant to Humphrey.

Hosts for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. William F. McSweeney of Washington. Mrs. McSweeney is a member of Boston University School of Medicine's Board of Visitors.