

Dr. Ronald W. Busuttil: Leader of the Liver Team

By Curtis D. Holt, Pharm.D.

Dr. Ronald W Busuttil is the Dumont Professor of Transplantation Surgery and Chief of the Division of Liver and Pancreas Transplant in the Department of Surgery at the UCLA School of Medicine. After graduating from Loyola University' in New Orleans, Dr. Busuttil earned both his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at Tulane University Medical School.

He served his surgical residency at UCLA under Dr. William Longmire and trained in transplantation with Dr. Thomas Starzl at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Busuttil has been a member of the Department of Surgery at UCLA since 1978. In 1984, he established the Liver Transplant Program and has been the Director and Chief Surgeon since its inception. At the time Dr. Busuttil founded the UCLA Liver Transplant Program, it was one of the first in the United States. To further meet the needs of an expanding patient population. in 1993 Dr. Busuttil opened both the UCLA/UC Irvine Liver Transplant Program and the UCLA Pancreas Transplant Program.

In 1995, Dr. Busuttil assumed the directorship of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Liver Transplant Program. In 2000, he established the Dumont-UCLA Liver Cancer Center, which will serve patients throughout California, the nation, and abroad. The Dumont-UCLA Transplant Center is currently the largest liver transplant center in the world. Activities include the entire spectrum of liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery.

An example of this includes adult and pediatric liver transplantation, living-related liver transplantation, split liver transplantation, pancreas transplantation, liver/small bowel transplantation, and all types of tertiary complex hepatobiliary



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surgeries, including biliary tract reconstructions, portal hypertensive surgery and resections for hepatocellular malignancies. Dr. Busuttil has performed over 2,000 liver transplants and is internationally recognized for his surgical expertise. He has demonstrated a life-long commitment to the care of desperately ill patients, the training of medical students, residents, and surgical fellows, and to scientific advancement in the field of transplantation and surgery

Dr. Busuttil's training program in liver transplantation is currently recognized as the foremost in the world. He has trained both U.S. and international transplant surgeons, many of whom lead liver transplant programs throughout the U.S., Asia, and Europe. Dr. Busuttil serves as a reviewer or on

the editorial boards of many prestigious journals, and is the co-editor of the definitive textbook on liver transplantation entitled *Transplantation of the Liver*. Dr. Busuttil has authored over 40 book chapters, 300 abstracts, and 350 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He is a member of many national and international surgical and transplant societies, and holds key committee memberships in several of these.

Dr. Busuttil previously served as the co-chairman of the International Congress on Immunosuppression and is currently president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons.

Finally Dr. Busuttil is an avid automotive aficionado, and devoted to his wife of 30 years, Jo Ann, and their two daughters, Amber and Ashley.