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Public Information

For Release: Tuesday, June 13, 1967

DR. C. WALTON LILLEHEI TO BE PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN OF SURGERY

AT THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL-CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER

Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, the famed heart surgeon, has been named Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery at Cornell University Medical College in New York City. Announcement of the appointment was made by Dr. John E. Deitrick, Dean of the Medical College, and Dr. E. Hugh Luckey, President of the Medical Center. He will also be the Chairman of the Department of Surgery in the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and Surgeon in Chief of The New York Hospital.

Dr. Lillehei is Professor of Surgery at the University of Minnesota, where he conducted his pioneering work in open heart surgery. His appointment at Cornell will take effect on November 1, 1967.

It was at Minnesota in 1955 that Dr. Lillehei developed a blood pump and oxygenator, still in wide use, that has been the key that made intracardiac surgery possible. The existence of the heart-lung machine has made possible the common performance of open heart surgery in the world's leading medical centers. For generations before the development of the heart-lung machine, open heart surgery was commonly regarded as being impossible. Dr. Lillehei, however, was performing such history making surgery in 1954 by using cross circulation, in which the patient shared the circulatory system of a healthy donor.

Dr. Lillehei was one of the first persons to demonstrate the practical feasibility of correcting congenital defects inside the heart and to perform intracardiac operations of long length upon a non-pulsating heart. Before the advent of open heart surgery such operations were impossible. He was also the first to apply open heart surgery, through use of the heart-lung machine to the repair of mitral and aortic valve leakages and obstructions in older children or adults, usually the result of prior bouts of rheumatic fever. This led in 1958

to his first successful use in man of a completely artificial heart valve replacement, now a commonly performed operation.

He and his co-workers pioneered in using an electrical stimulus applied through an electrode sewn to the heart to maintain an adequate heart beat. This principle has been incorporated into the device known as the pacemaker, which is now widely used in maintaining normal heart action in people who otherwise would be incapacitated or dead because of an abnormally slow heart beat.

The past several years Dr. Lillehei has been particularly interested in the development of new and improved methods for the surgical alleviation of the ravages of coronary artery disease.

This year Dr. Lillehei announced the development of still another aid to the treatment of heart disease. It is a new type of compact artificial heart-lung pump with no valves or other interior moving parts. It is to be used as a booster pump and/or lung that is linked to a patient's circulation through a major artery and vein. This device has the advantage of small size, simplicity and, in all probability, minimal adverse effects upon the blood. The device is made of a multilayer sandwich of plastic sheets and silicone rubber membrane. The ultimate aim is to implant this synthetic organ within the chest to take the place of the heart and/lungs that have failed.

The history of heart surgery at the University of Minnesota, in which Dr. Lillehei has played so prominent a role, is described in the late Leonard Engel's best-selling book, "The Operation."

Dr. Lillehei is coming to a medical center well known for its work on and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. The first open heart surgery was performed at The New York Hospital early in 1958 and some 600 operations have been performed since that time. The development of an artificial heart, under the direction of Dr. S. Frank Redo, is under way. Outstanding research in heart function has long been conducted by scientists at Cornell University Medical College.

Dr. Lillehei will assume the positions that have been held for the past 20 years by Dr. Frank Glenn. Dr. Glenn will become an Emeritus Professor of the Medical College. He is

especially well known for his contributions to surgery of the biliary tract. Dr. Glenn is also favorably known for important contributions to other surgical areas, notably the gastrointestinal tract, endocrine glands, pancreas, and the cardiovascular system. It was Dr. Glenn, working with Dr. George R. Holswade, who performed the first open heart operation at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Glenn is also noted as a teacher, both of medical students and graduate physicians. He is a Past President of the American College of Surgeons and the author of more than 500 articles in scientific journals.

The new department chairman is a member of a famous medical family that has been compared with the Mayos, the Menningers and the Ravdins. C. Walton Lillehei, who is 48, is the eldest of three physician brothers who are at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Richard C. Lillehei, also a surgeon, has contributed extensively to work in organ transplantation, shock and methods to support the failing heart. Dr. James Lillehei does research on pulmonary physiology.

Dr. Lillehei was born in Minneapolis and went to high school there. He received his B.S. from the University of Minnesota in 1939 and his M.D. from the Medical School in 1942. He holds an M.S. in Physiology and a Ph.D. in Surgery from the University's Graduate School.

He served in World War II as commanding officer of the U.S. Army Medical Clearing Company and Commanding Officer of the 33rd Field Hospital in England, North Africa, Sicily, and the Italian theaters. He received the Army's Bronze Star in 1944 at Anzio.

Dr. Lillehei took his internship and graduate surgical training at the University of Minnesota. In 1956 he was named a full professor in the Department of Surgery of the Medical School. He is a member of numerous scientific and medical societies, and he has received a number of important awards for his work, including the Theobald Smith Award (1951) and Ida B. Gould Award for Cardiovascular Research (1956) both from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, The Lasker Award (1955), the Hektoen Gold Medal of the American Medical Association (1957), and the Modern Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award (1957). More recently, he has been honored by the Oscar B. Hunter Memorial Award of the American Therapeutic Society and the Gairdner Foundation International Award.

Dr. Lillehei and his wife and four children live at present in St. Paul, Minnesota.