



PROSPERITY BANK®

CAPITAL GAINS:

Prosperity Bancshares to enter Austin market through acquisition /PAGE 2

HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Strictly Houston. Strictly Business.

Vol. 34 No. 51 Week of April 30–May 6, 2004

houston.bizjournals.com

80 Pages \$2.00

Safety initiative at M.D. Anderson leads to growth of system for handling drugs

A closed system used for the safe handling of antineoplastic and other hazardous drugs that was first used by M.D. Anderson Cancer Center — the PhaSeal System — is being adopted by a growing number of hospitals throughout the country, according to Greg Baldwin, chairman and CEO of Baxa Corp.

The PhaSeal system is manufactured in Sweden by Carmel Pharma Ab and distributed in the United States by Englewood, Colo.-based Baxa. Instead of containing workers within protective gear, the system contains the hazard within a closed system.

According to reports by Baxa Corp., in 1997, M.D. Anderson's Roger W. Anderson, PharmD, director of pharmacy, invited Dutch toxicologist Paul Sessink to present his research on the use of surface wipe tests with a new chemical analytical monitoring technique that showed harmful agents remained in the workplace despite published safeguards.

While meeting with him, Anderson and his colleagues learned about the science of the PhaSeal System.

Anderson and Dr. Thomas H. Connor conducted a study on surface contamination in six cancer treatment centers in the U.S. and Canada that confirmed the European experience and then decided to evaluate the PhaSeal technology in M.D. Anderson's Ambulatory Treatment Center for one year.

When the results showed that human exposure to cancer chemotherapy was greatly reduced or eliminated through use of the system, M.D. Anderson, in 2000, became the first U.S. hospital to adopt it.

A further study, published in 2003, by Dr. Susan Spivey and Connor supports the previous findings of the system's effectiveness, and today more than 100 U.S. hospitals are using the PhaSeal System, according to Baxa Corp. reports. ■

Thora Qaddumi