

Doctor travels between New Orleans, New York



TO THE RIM

Tina Soong

Dr. **Constance Chen** recently visited New Orleans, the first of many future trips to the city.

During her visit from Aug. 13-18, Chen, the daughter of **Ted** and **Marion Chen** of New Orleans, accomplished many projects. As an attending plastic and reconstructive surgeon at Omega Hospital, a private surgical hospital in Metairie, she performed breast reconstructive surgery.

As a clinical assistant professor at Tulane University School of Medicine, she met with **Lee Hamm**, director of research of Tulane University School of Medicine, and discussed about applying for a grant to do research on lymphedema.

Chen then visited Tulane-Xavier Center for Excellence for Women's Health and met with **Jeanette Magnus**, director of the center.

Chen's father is a professor at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Because she is an attending surgeon at Lenox Hill Hospital and an associate adjunct surgeon at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, Chen will travel between New Orleans and New York. She will come to New Orleans often to operate, pay post-surgery visits to her patients and attend meetings.

"My husband lives and works in New York," Chen said. "So that is my pull to New York. I have homes both in New Orleans and New York. The amount of time I spend in each place will depend on where my patients need me."

Chen earned a bachelor's degree from the Radcliffe Institute for Advance Study at Harvard University. She served as founding assistant editor at Men's Journal, New York, 1990-92, and as literary agent at Faith Childs Literary Agency, New York, 1992-1995. She came to New Orleans and earned a master's degree in public health from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Chen attended Stanford University School of Medicine and earned her medical degree in 2001. She finished her residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Washington, the New York Presbyterian Hospital and New York University Medical Center.

Chen has presented and published numerous papers throughout the years. She presented this year at the International Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Meeting, the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons 26th annual meeting and the meeting of the European Plastic

Surgery Research Council in Germany.*

"I always had interests in medicine and writing from a very young age," Chen said. "During my high school years, I did internships in both biology labs and in magazines. Now, I am always operating and always writing."

Chen is working on another book titled "Woman to Women: a Breast Reconstruction Handbook."

"Many young Asian-Americans are encouraged by their family to enter the field of medicine," Chen said. "While medicine is a very honorable profession in which the Asian-Americans traditionally excelled, young people should open their minds and eyes to other professions as well and find what suits them best.

"Whatever your academic and career goals are, you need to believe in yourself and keep on going and trying."

Members of the Asian/Pacific-American communities in the New Orleans area are invited to e-mail news items to Tina Soong at tsoongtotherim@aol.com.