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New research gives clear proof that weight-loss surgery can reverse and possibly cure diabetes, and doctors say the operation should be offered sooner to more people with the disease — not just as a last resort. The two studies are the first to compare stomach-reducing operations to medicines alone for “diabesity” — Type 2 diabetes brought on by obesity.

The predecessor to these studies happened at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University when Dr. Walter Pories observed an unexpected result in 1980 from the Greenville Roux-en-y gastric bypass surgery that he developed. It became clear early on that when obese patients with diabetes underwent the surgery, their diabetes went into remission within days, he said on Tuesday.

Pories, a professor of surgery, biochemistry and exercise and sports medicine, said subsequent studies were built on the initial research done at Brody.

“We were the first to show it here and show it conclusively,” he said Tuesday. The earlier Brody research showed the surgery caused weight loss and the remission of diabetes. The research followed a large group of
patients, some for as long as 16 years. The results were not compared to treatment through medicine alone as these two new studies have done.

For Pories, recommendations to patients that gastric bypass surgery could alleviate diabetes along with causing weight loss is nothing new.

His research has moved into another area of diabetes: working to identify the cell that causes the disease.

Still, Pories sees this new research as validating his earlier work, and he’s glad to have the spotlight shine on research that could have an effect on public health.

The newly released studies found that surgery helped far more patients achieve normal blood-sugar levels than medicines alone did.

The results were dramatic. Some people were able to stop taking insulin as soon as three days after their operations. Cholesterol and other heart risk factors also greatly improved.

Doctors don’t like to say “cure” because they can’t promise a disease will never come back. But in one study, most surgery patients were able to stop all diabetes drugs and have their disease stay in remission for at least two years. None of those treated with medicines alone could do that.

“It is a major advance,” said Dr. John Buse of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a leading diabetes expert who had no role in the studies. Buse said he often recommends surgery to patients who are obese and can’t control their blood-sugar through medications, but many are leery of it.

“This evidence will help convince them that this really is an important therapy to at least consider,” he said.

There were signs that the surgery itself — not just weight loss — helps reverse diabetes. Food makes the gut produce hormones to spur insulin, so trimming away part of it surgically may affect those hormones, doctors believe.

Weight-loss surgery “has proven to be a very appropriate and excellent treatment for diabetes,” said one study co-leader, Dr. Francesco Rubino, chief of diabetes surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. “The most proper name for the surgery would be diabetes surgery.”
The studies were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine, and the larger one was presented Monday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Chicago.

More than a third of American adults are obese, and more than 8 percent have diabetes, a major cause of heart disease, strokes and kidney failure. Between 5 million and 10 million are like the people in these studies, with both problems.

For a century, doctors have been treating diabetes with pills and insulin, and encouraging weight loss and exercise with limited success. Few very obese people can drop enough pounds without surgery, and many of the medicines used to treat diabetes can cause weight gain, making things worse.

Surgery offers hope for a long-term fix. It costs $15,000 to $25,000, and Medicare covers it for very obese people with diabetes. Gastric bypass is the most common type: Through “keyhole” surgery, doctors reduce the stomach to a small pouch and reconnect it to the small intestine.

At the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Philip Schauer studied 150 people given one of two types of surgery plus standard medicines or a third group given medicines alone. Their A1c levels — the key blood-sugar measure — were over 9 on average at the start. A healthy A1c is 6 or below.

One year after treatment began, only 12 percent of those treated with medicines alone were at that healthy level, versus 42 percent and 37 percent of the two groups given surgery.

Use of medicines for high cholesterol and other heart risks dropped among those in the surgery groups but rose in the group on medicines alone.

“Every single one of the bypass patients who got to 6 or less got there without the need for any diabetes medicines. Almost half of them were on insulin at the start. That’s pretty amazing,” said a study co-leader, Dr. Steven Nissen, the Cleveland Clinic’s cardiovascular chief.

An obesity surgery equipment company sponsored the study, and some of the researchers are paid consultants; the federal government also contributed grant support.

The second study was led by Dr. Geltrude Mingrone at the Catholic University in Rome, with Rubino from New York. It involved 60 patients given one of two types of surgery or medicines alone. The researchers set as their goal an A1c under 6.5 — the level at which someone is considered to have diabetes.
Two years later, 95 percent and 75 percent of the two surgery groups achieved and maintained the target blood-sugar levels without any diabetes drugs. None of those in the medicine-alone group did.

There were no deaths from surgery and only a few complications. Four patients in the Cleveland study needed second surgeries, and two in the Italian study needed hernia operations. Doctors note that uncontrolled diabetes has complications, too — many patients wind up on dialysis when their kidneys fail, and some need transplants.
UNC system committee discusses best ways to sign coaches, ADs

By Jane Stancill - jstancill@newsobserver.com

Universities can easily end up on the losing end of a negotiation to hire a winning coach – something that a North Carolina system committee recognized on the first day of its work to identify the best ways to ink contracts with coaches and athletic directors.

Tuesday marked the first meeting of the system’s Committee on Best Practices for Head Coach and Athletic Director Contracts. The group originally planned to meet on March 12, the same day the NCAA issued a postseason ban and other penalties against North Carolina’s football program for multiple violations, including academic fraud, impermissible agent benefits, ineligible participation and a failure to monitor. The committee cancelled that session, as its chairman, former North Carolina Athletic Director Dick Baddour, dealt with the NCAA fallout.

The panel was convened by North Carolina system President Tom Ross in January as the NCAA investigation lingered. Ross said he wanted the group to consider what elements, such as academic measures, should be included in coaching contracts. The panel is made up of athletic directors, university attorneys and former Board of Governors Chairman Jim Phillips, a Greensboro lawyer.

Potential pitfalls

On Tuesday, the committee began to sift through the pitfalls in a world where successful coaches are the objects of bidding wars and multimillion dollar deals.

The “fast and furious” nature of those deals is problematic, committee members said.

“The market for coaches, whether you’re at a BCS school or a mid-major, moves at the speed of light,” said Eileen Goldgeier, general counsel at N.C. State University. Too often, she said, deals are done in the heat of competition with other bidders, hours or days after the end of football or basketball season. The processes in place aren’t nimble enough to allow the university to act expeditiously enough, Goldgeier said.
Terry Holland, athletic director at East Carolina University, agreed. “The rush is a big problem,” he said. “It can become very chancy in terms of a losing a coach.”

Also, preliminary hiring agreements, known as memoranda of understanding, can be tricky. Typically such documents specify only the basics such as term of employment, salary and bonus structure. That can leave universities in a bad bargaining position with coaches, Goldgeier said. “The devil is in the detail,” she said.

**Contract policy**

Coach hires are subject to a vote by campus boards of trustees. But the system’s Board of Governors has a policy spelling out that contracts should include general principles on academic values, compliance with NCAA rules and standards for outside compensation and sources of funding available for salary. No automatic extensions are allowed and all contracts are public records, the policy stipulates.

But the North Carolina system president and the Board of Governors do have some say over specifics in coaching contracts, including deferred compensation and buyout clauses. The board can consider the university’s ability to pay buyouts, the sources of funding to be used and whether such payouts will harm a university.

Phillips said the policy, updated in 2007, was meant to protect campuses because “some schools might have eyes that might be bigger than their stomachs.”

Such buyouts, including the one for the fired former North Carolina football coach Butch Davis, have been controversial. Davis was fired without cause, which meant that he was eligible to receive a payout.

Laura Fjeld, general counsel for the North Carolina system, suggested the panel discuss whether the allegation of a major NCAA infraction is too high a bar for a university to find “cause” to fire a coach.

“It’s healthy for us to be discussing (the issue) in this context,” Fjeld said after the meeting.

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An East Carolina University student has been charged in the theft of financial cards and other larcenies at the Student Recreation Center, ECU announced on Tuesday.

Brett Lee Hartnett, 23, of Winterville — an undergraduate in his junior year — has been charged with eight financial transaction card thefts, which are felonies, and nine misdemeanor larceny charges, a news release said.

ECU police began investigating an increased number of larcenies at the Student Recreation Center on Jan. 20. The value of all property taken is estimated at $2,000.

Officers were able to obtain arrest warrants against Hartnett, and Winterville police arrested him on Friday. Hartnett was being held in the Pitt County Detention Center on a $105,000 secured bond.
WASHINGTON

ECU professor speaks on jobs

An East Carolina University business professor is scheduled to testify before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business at 1 p.m. today.

William C. McDowell, an assistant professor with the College of Business, is one of four experts scheduled to speak at a hearing titled "Large and Small Businesses: How Partnerships Can Promote Job Growth."

"The hearing is examining how large and small companies can form alliances to benefit from each other's strengths and in the process create more jobs," said Sam Graves, R-Mo, committee chairman. "More and more, large and small businesses are partnering together to better create added value, jobs, and economic growth."

The hearing is being held in Room 2360, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington.
East Carolina head coach Jeff Lebo questions a call during a Dec. 31, 2011, game against Virginia-Wise in Minges Coliseum. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

Lebo looks ahead
By Tony Castleberry
Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Jeff Lebo won’t be satisfied until East Carolina is no longer considered a team that opponents look forward to playing.

Lebo recently finished his second season in charge of the ECU men’s basketball team and while the Pirates’ 15-16 record wasn’t on par with their 18-16 mark during Lebo’s debut season, the 15 wins are still the second-most in the last 15 years. For a program that has a long history of losing more than it wins, Lebo’s first two seasons as East Carolina’s head coach should offer hope for long-suffering Pirate hoops fans, but Lebo has a plan for his team that goes beyond win-loss records.

“Because we’ve been down, people look at us different,” Lebo said in a Monday interview in his office on the ECU campus. “They expect to come in and just whip our tail. We’ve got to get through that and not have people look at us like that and have that confidence against us.

“It’s hard to explain. You can kind of sense it and you can feel it, especially from the upper echelon teams in (Conference USA). We’ve got to be able to
have that swagger. We’ve proven at times we can beat them, but not consistently enough to kind of get that tag off of us.”

Lebo has already overseen some historic wins during his ECU tenure, including the Pirates’ first-ever victory against C-USA power Memphis during the 2010-11 season, a campaign that also included a pair of wins in the conference tournament, another first for East Carolina’s program. ECU’s streaky 2011-12 slate featured another C-USA tourney victory and ended with an 81-78 overtime loss to eventual NCAA tournament participant Southern Miss.

Injuries and the suspension of a player for academic issues depleted the Pirates’ corps of big men throughout the season, meaning senior captain Darrius Morrow was forced to carry an even bigger load in the paint. Morrow was up to the challenge most of the time and Lebo said he knows replacing the 6-foot-8 Atlanta native will not be easy.

Two recruits — 6-9 Michael Zangari and 6-10 Marshall Guilmette — will likely see immediate playing time during their freshman years to help bolster a front line led by 6-8 forwards Maurice Kemp and Robert Sampson, who each played brilliantly at times this season.

“We’re going to have a lot of young guys there,” Lebo said. “We’re hopeful that they’ll come in and be able to contribute for us right away. ... Darrius played major minutes for us and was one of the best, I thought, in the league at scoring with his back to the basket.

“He’s going to be tough to replace. There’s no doubt about it.”

While losing Morrow is a big blow for ECU, he was the team’s only senior this season, meaning Lebo will welcome back almost his entire squad next season, including a group of juniors who should form the core of the team as seniors. Kemp, leading scorer Miguel Paul, sharpshooting guard Shamarr Bowden and stalwart defenders Erin Straughn and Corvonn Gaines return and bring a wealth of experience with them.

Sampson and Darius Morales will both be looking for breakout junior campaigns while 6-10 Yasin Kolo hopes to show what he can do after missing almost all of his freshman season with injuries. Guard Paris Roberts-Campbell impressed at times and earned valuable minutes as a true freshman while junior guard Akeem Richmond — a transfer from Rhode Island — will have two years of eligibility left when he dons the purple and gold next season.
Whether Lebo can lead the Pirates to only their second winning record since the 1996-97 season is anyone’s guess, but the coach has no questions when it comes to his job and the joy he derives from it.

“North Carolina is an educated basketball state and eastern North Carolina is no different,” Lebo said. “They know good basketball. They appreciate good basketball. They will support good basketball. It’s our job to put a product out there that they can identify with.

“It’s a hard job. There’s no doubt about that, but this place fits for me. I like it here. I’m comfortable in this neck of the woods.”

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Op-ed: Treadwell - Independent Payment Advisory Board's mandate hurts seniors

By Dr. Edward Treadwell

President Obama's healthcare reform law calls for some of the most dramatic changes to Medicare since the program was introduced nearly 50 years ago. Not all of them are for the better. But fortunately, lawmakers are now working to nip one particularly onerous change in the bud. The House of Representatives is working to repeal the creation of an Independent Payment Advisory Board, that would be charged with cutting Medicare costs.

Because one of the few cost-cutting options granted to the board is to reduce Medicare payments, it could force doctors to ration care for those over 65. For the sake of North Carolina's elderly, congressional action can't come soon enough.

With one of the nation's fastest growing populations of seniors, North Carolina stands to benefit significantly from the removal of IPAB. Between 2000 and 2010, Raleigh had the highest senior population growth rate among the nation's biggest metropolitan areas, at 60 percent. Charlotte had the sixth-highest senior growth rate, at 36 percent over the same period.

Medicare spending has spiraled upward in recent years - by an average of eight percent annually between 1991 and 2009. Finding ways to rein it in is essential. But IPAB is dangerous because it is not permitted to alter benefits or restructure the way Medicare actually works. That means it will have to go after provider reimbursement rates.

Dramatic cuts to reimbursement rates have already reduced access to care for many seniors. According to an American Medical Association survey, 17 percent of doctors, including 31 percent of primary care physicians, have chosen not to participate in Medicare largely for this reason.

Former Democratic Congressman Ron Klink, a Pennsylvania Democrat, cuts to the heart of the matter: "IPAB's sole mission to cut Medicare spending by slashing payments [to healthcare providers] will certainly not help seniors live healthier lives." He warns that IPAB "could do serious damage to the sacred doctor-patient relationships Americans rely upon to ensure they are receiving the best care."
Board isn't accountable

One of IPAB's chief flaws is what was once heralded as its greatest virtue: It is purposefully insulated from outside pressures. Its members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. But from that point forward, IPAB is not accountable to Congress, the president, the courts or, most important, Medicare beneficiaries.

California Democratic Congressman Pete Stark, a leader on health care policy, called IPAB "an unprecedented abrogation of Congressional authority to an unelected, unaccountable body of so-called experts."

Another prominent Democrat, Pennsylvania Rep. Allyson Schwartz, called IPAB "an unaccountable board [that] has the potential to stifle implementation of promising innovations."

Congressional oversight of Medicare would ensure responsiveness to the seniors who use it. Take that away and what recourse will seniors have when their access to screenings, prescription drugs, surgical procedures, or the latest innovations in medicine are deemed too expensive?

IPAB has no incentive to listen. The board's work is outside the regular system of checks and balances - neither the executive branch nor a court of law can overrule its cuts, and Congress can only overturn them with a supermajority vote or by passing a new law that produces the same amount of savings as IPAB's proposed cut. Both would be virtually impossible.

What's more, the panel is not subject to the open meeting or public comment requirements that apply to other government agencies. With the American public clamoring for more transparency from their government, IPAB is moving in the opposite direction.

Powerful advocates

Not everyone is critical of IPAB. It has some powerful advocates who not only oppose its repeal, but would like to see IPAB's authority broadened. President Obama himself has proposed lowering the threshold at which IPAB's limits would take effect, which could only mean earlier and deeper cuts.

Swift passage of the IPAB repeal bill in the House is almost a certainty, but its future is far less certain in the Senate. On the eve of the repeal bill's first congressional vote in February, Rep. Klink recommended that his fellow Democrats "repeal IPAB and forget that it ever existed."
For the sake of North Carolina's growing senior population, let's hope all our elected leaders listen.

Dr. Edward Treadwell is a rheumatologist and professor of medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. He is president of the Old North State Medical Society.
Tighter security for SAT, ACT in wake of cheating

By FRANK ELTMAN - Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y.–The millions of students who take the SAT or ACT each year will have to submit photos of themselves when they sign up for the college entrance exams, under a host of new security measures announced Tuesday in the aftermath of a major cheating scandal on Long Island.

The two companies that administer the tests, the College Board and ACT Inc., agreed to the precautions under public pressure brought to bear by Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, who is overseeing the investigation. The measures take effect in the fall.

"I believe these reforms, and many others which are happening behind the scenes, will prevent the kind of cheating that our investigation uncovered and give high schools and colleges the tools they need to identify those who try to cheat," Rice said.

Rice has charged 20 current or former students from a cluster of well-to-do, high-achieving suburbs on Long Island with participating in a scheme in which teenagers hired other people for as much as $3,500 each to take the exam for them. The five alleged ringers arrested in the case were accused of flashing phony IDs when they showed up for the tests. All 20 have pleaded not guilty.

In one instance, a young man allegedly produced ID and took the test for a teenage girl who had a name that could have been either male or female.

Students have long been required to show identification when they arrive for one of the tests. Under the new rules, they will have to submit head shots of themselves in advance with their test application. A copy of the photo will be printed on the admission ticket mailed to each student, and will also appear on the test site roster.

School administrators are "going to be able to compare the photo and the person who showed up and say that's either John Doe or that's not John Doe. They didn't have the ability to do that before," the district attorney said.

The photo will also be attached to the student's scores, which, for the first time, will be sent to his or her high school, so that administrators and
guidance counselors can see the pictures. Previously, test results were sent only to the student.

"Millions of college-bound students who take the SAT and ACT each year can have a new confidence that their hard work and preparation will be rewarded and not diminished by cheaters," Rice said.

Officials from the College Board and ACT Inc. said that any additional costs would be absorbed and not passed on to students. The College Board charges $49 for the SAT; ACT Inc. charges $34 for the basic test, $49.50 if it includes a writing exam.

"We believe these measures support both test integrity and access and equity for all students," said Kathryn Juric, vice president of the SAT program for the College Board.

During the 2010-11 school year nearly 3 million students worldwide took the SAT; 1.6 million students took the ACT in 2011.

In another key change, students will be required to identify on their application the high school they attend. In the Long Island scandal, the impostors often went to high schools in neighboring communities so they would not be recognized.

Bob Schaeffer, public education director of FairTest: National Center for Fair & Open Testing, a longtime critic of the SAT, said the new procedures would still not prevent cheating if a student submitted an impostor's photograph.

"The image on the registration form will match up with that of the person taking the exam so long as an equally phony ID is used at the test site," he said.

But Rice argued that the follow-up report to the student's high school, with the photograph, should deter most cheating.

"Knowing that's going to be going back to their high schools, specifically their guidance counselor, that's the backup check that's going to prevent it from happening," Rice said. She also said the photos would be kept in a database should any questions of cheating arise later.

In addition, administrators will check student IDs more frequently at test centers. IDs will be examined when students enter a test site, whenever they re-enter the test room after breaks, and again when the answer sheets are collected.

Students will have to upload the photo of themselves or else mail it in.
Vivian Tam, a 17-year-old senior at the LaGuardia School for the Performing Arts High School in New York, welcomed the changes.

"Some people are getting better grades because they have more money to pay somebody to take the test for them," she said.

Associated Press Writer Verena Dobnik in New York City contributed to this report.
UNC student recovering from hit and run

From staff reports

CHAPEL HILL—A UNC student struck by a vehicle Monday in Chapel Hill is recovering in fair condition.

Lauren Fredette was driving eastbound on Cameron Avenue when she struck pedestrian Rachel Alexis Armstrong, according to UNC public safety spokesman Randy Young. Armstrong, who was in the crosswalk at the time, was conscious and responsive at the scene, Young said.

Fredette, 22, fled the scene and was stopped a short time later near the Outdoor Education Center at UNC-CH. Authorities arrested and charged her with felony hit and run. She was released on a $2,500 bail bond. Fredette is not affiliated with the university, Young said.

Armstrong, 21, was recovering at the UNC Medical center Tuesday, according to the hospital. She is a psychology and exercise science double-major.
Bugg Elementary kindergartener McKynzie Davis, 5 looks up at as N.C. State freshman Hunter Gavis, 19 shows her how to fill out a mock college application form in the school cafeteria Tuesday March 27, 2012. Teachers at Bugg Elementary School want their students to start thinking about college now, so they're holding the school's first College Bound Day, a college fair of sorts for the pre-tween set.

Students consider college plans at Raleigh’s Bugg Elementary

By Caitlin Baker - cebaker@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH–Students at Bugg Elementary School are already thinking about college applications.

The arts and science magnet school in Southeast Raleigh hosted its inaugural College Bound Day, a daylong event Tuesday designed to encourage students to set goals for college and careers.

More than 300 college students from N.C. State and Shaw universities and St. Augustine’s College volunteered to spend the day with Bugg students to tell the elementary kids about their college experiences. Principal Michael Armstrong, who joined Bugg in August, said the goal is to show students that college is an option for them and to give them a better understanding of the journey to get there.

The event was also a reward for the students, who took tests last week that prepare them for state-mandated exams.

“I told students that after they worked hard to do well on their tests last week that we would celebrate,” Armstrong said.
All last week, Armstrong said, students had been shouting in unison the motto that lead up to Tuesday’s event: “When I get to college I will exponentially multiply my choices.”

Activities at College Bound Day were divided into three stations: academics, arts and athletics. Groups of students visited each station for about an hour and a half.

Part of the academic station involved filling out college applications designed to fit each grade level. With the help of college student volunteers, Bugg students answered questions about their favorite subjects, end-of-grade exam scores and extracurricular activities.

While filling out his application, fifth-grader Giovani Mbata said that he wanted to go to UNC-Chapel Hill.

“My mom and dad went there, and I’d like to go where they went,” said Giovani, 11. “Also, my favorite basketball team is there, so maybe I could join the team.”

Second-grader Elijah Woods also wants to attend UNC, but to study singing and acting.

“I’ve heard a lot about it, and I think it’s a very outstanding school from what I’ve heard,” said Elijah, 8.

Third-grade teacher Jennifer Joyner read “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” the story of a caterpillar that grows into a butterfly, to her group of first- and third-graders. Then students made posters depicting images from the story that represent their own growth from elementary students to college graduates.

Outside, students visited the athletics station where they could participate in a mile run, play tennis or rugby, or practice ball-handling skills, all while learning the importance of maintaining an active lifestyle and setting goals.

Volunteer Femmy Perry, a former member of the Women’s Tennis Association and one of the organizers of College Bound Day, wanted to include an athletics component to the day’s events to teach kids about the benefits of sports, both for a healthy lifestyle and for potential college scholarships, she said.

For the past two years, Magnet Schools of America named Bugg a Magnet School of Excellence. Since 1995, Bugg has been an A+ School, a title given to high achieving arts-based schools in North Carolina.
But unique events like College Bound Day are what make Keshia Smith happy to keep sending her son, Elijah Woods.

“Bugg is so driven on the children’s future in everything that they do,” said Smith, who briefly attended Bugg as a child herself. “I am definitely glad Elijah is here.”
The University of California, Berkeley, is part of a six-school “supergroup” with twice the scholarly repute of any other institution, according to a new ranking. (Jeff Chiu - Associated Press)

Six colleges dominate in research stature

By Daniel de Vise

Six schools — Harvard, Stanford, Cambridge, Oxford, MIT, and University of California, Berkeley — have effectively cornered the market on being “the best” in academic research, according to the latest reputation survey from Times Higher Education.

Those schools earned twice the reputation score of any other in the 2012 ranking, which is based on how many scholars in various disciplines name a school as the best in that field.
The ranking, titled Top Universities by Reputation, compiled surveys from 17,554 academics that asked them to name up to 15 institutions they considered the best in teaching and (separately) research in their field.

Reputation surveys are famously controversial; public intellectual Malcolm Gladwell attacked them in a widely cited New Yorker piece. U.S. News, for example, asks college presidents and provosts to rate colleges on their overall academic stature. Several presidents have told me they simply don’t know enough about other colleges to do that.

The Times Higher Education survey might be more defensible, because it ask researchers to rate other schools in their own area of specialty.

Getting back to this year’s survey: Below the top tier of six, there is a fairly pronounced second tier. It comprises five more schools — Princeton, UCLA, Yale, CalTech and, surprise, the University of Tokyo — that all earn scores between roughly 30 and 40 on the 100-point reputation scale. None of them comes close to the top group, all of whom score over 70. But they are well above the next group, which we’ll get to shortly.

It’s an interesting outcome, because most people in U.S. higher education would probably place Princeton, Yale and CalTech in the same category as Harvard and Stanford in overall academic repute.

Next, we have six more schools with reputation scores between 20 and 29, a sort of third tier: Michigan, Imperial College London, the University of Chicago, Columbia, Cornell and the University of Toronto.

No one else on the 100-school list scores even as high as 20, which I take to mean that they earned fewer than one-fifth as many “best” citations as Harvard, whose reputation score is an even 100.

Two Ivy League Schools, Penn and Brown, are in that below-20 camp, and I don’t see Dartmouth anywhere on the list.

“It’s purely subjective opinion,” said Phil Baty, editor of the rankings. “But it’s a really good, quality sample.”

The methodological notes mention that the response rate rose this year, the second year of the reputation survey, even though the survey went to a completely different group of academicians than in the first year. That presumably means the researchers consider the survey a sound use of their time.

Baty notes the strong showing by Eastern universities in the reputation survey, a reminder that the great Asian institutions are now ranked among
the world’s best. In addition to the University of Tokyo, the top 100 list includes Kyoto University (ranked 20th), National University of Singapore (23rd), Tsinghua University (30th), Peking University (38th) and the University of Hong Kong (39th) in the top 40 alone.

“The East Asian universities have had a pretty healthy rise,” Baty said. “And against this backdrop, we’ve seen some quite significant slips among some U.S. public institutions, and some U.K. institutions. I think there is a clear sense that some of the great Western institutions that have dominated the world for several decades are starting to lose a bit of their shine, whereas there seems to be a real excitement in the east.”

Stanford and Berkeley have swapped places this year near the top of the rankings — to Stanford’s favor, Baty said — “I think that’s quite symbolic.” Public flagships in Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas and North Carolina all have slipped, along with UC campuses in San Diego and Davis.