



# CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 23, 2013

## Graduate Studies reaches out to help our neighbor

The School of Graduate Studies is sponsoring an outreach activity as part of its Orientation program. They're holding a food and toiletries drive for the Food Bank at the Rebuild Center at St. Joseph's Church. Our new graduate students helped set up the boxes and will help collect and present the food and toiletry products to the Food Bank.

**School of Graduate Studies**

**Food DRIVE**

**August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>**

For our neighbors at the Rebuild Center Food Bank at St. Joseph's Church

**Suggested Items:**  
Dry food  
Canned food  
Toiletries  
**NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE!**

Boxes in the CSRB, MEB, Allied Health, Lions, and Resource Center

For more information, contact:  
Leigh Smith-Vaniz (lsm330@lsuhsc.edu)

Collection boxes are in the Trail Clinical Sciences Research Building, the Medical Education Building, the Allied Health/Nursing Building, the Lions Building, and the Resource Center. They would appreciate donations of non-perishable foods. These could include meals in a can (stew, chili, soup), tuna and canned meat, peanut butter, canned foods with pop-top lids, low-sugar cereals, 100% fruit juices in single serving boxes, canned fruit packed in juice, canned vegetables (low salt). Please avoid items packaged in glass, or bulk items. The Rebuild Center could also use toiletry items for personal hygiene. The drive ends August 30th.

## LSUHSC study finds racial/ethnic differences in young people with cancer

Mei-Chin Hsieh, MSPH, CTR, of LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Public Health's Louisiana Tumor Registry, is the lead author of a study that reports racial and ethnic differences in the incidence of soft tissue sarcomas in adolescents and young adults. The research, conducted at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Public Health, is published online in the *Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology*.



Mei-Chin Hsieh

The LSUHSC research team, which also included Xiao-Cheng Wu, MD, MPH, Director of the LSUHSC Louisiana Tumor Registry, Patricia Andrews, MPH, Instructor of Epidemiology, and Vivien Chen, PhD, Professor of Epidemiology, analyzed 1995-2008 incidence data from 25 population-based cancer registries covering 64% of the United States population, which they obtained from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

The incidence rates of soft tissue sarcoma types in cancer patients who are 15 to 29 years old vary among racial/ethnic groups. The incidence of all soft tissue sarcomas combined was 34% higher in males than females, 60% higher among African-Americans than Caucasians, and slightly higher among Hispanics than Caucasians. The researchers found that African-American and Hispanic males had a higher incidence *see LTR, page 2*

## LSUHSC OTs helping improve quality of life for WWII vet and wife

The latest recipients of the expertise and compassion of the LSUHSC Occupational Therapy faculty and students are a World War II veteran and his



Mr. Earnest & Ms. Vivian

wife who has a number of health problems. Each night, Mr. Earnest sets up a small cot next to Ms. Vivian's hospital bed so they can continue to hold hands as they've done during 63 years of marriage. The sleeping arrangements are not the only challenge the Jacks are trying to overcome. Like so many others, their home sustained damage following Katrina, and also like many others, they were taken advantage of by contractors.

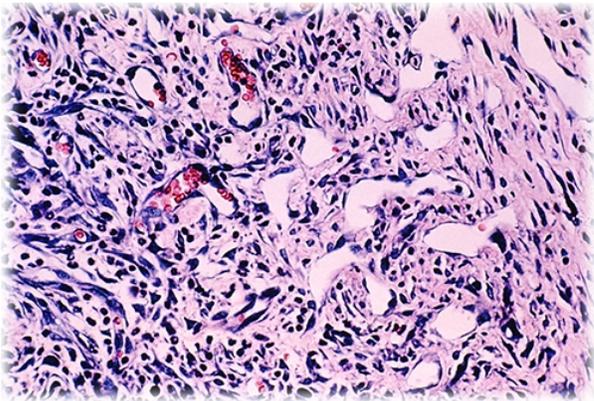
LSUHSC and Rebuilding Together, are working together to help the Jacks. *see OT, page 2*

*LTR, from page 1*

of Kaposi sarcoma than Caucasians. For non-Kaposi sarcoma, African-Americans had a significantly higher incidence of fibromatous tumors and rhabdomyosarcoma than Caucasians, Hispanics had a significantly higher incidence of liposarcoma, and Caucasians were more likely to be diagnosed with synovial sarcoma than African-Americans.

Most studies on adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 29 have focused on the comparison of this age group with younger and/or older populations with less focus on quantifying the differences among racial/ethnic groups within this age group.

This type of research provides information that can improve care. It raises awareness of the need for inclusion of cancer patients in this age group in clinical trials. It alerts physicians to the racial/ethnic disparities for different cancers. It can also direct policy. For instance, policies could be implemented to prevent Kaposi sarcoma since it is the only type among all soft tissue sarcomas that is amenable to prevention through appropriate interventions. Further efforts should focus on developing effective racially and ethnically sensitive and culturally acceptable interventions in order to minimize the disparities and ultimately reduce the incidence of Kaposi sarcoma in young adults of all races/ethnicities. While disparities are also observed for common non-Kaposi sarcoma types, no well-established cancer controls are currently in place. Factors for racial and ethnic disparities in non-Kaposi sarcoma incidence among adolescents and young adults are less clear, requiring more research.



The researchers hope their findings will lead to more attention being paid to all aspects of cancer care for this age group. ■

*OT, from page 1*

LSUHSC Occupational Therapy faculty and students have provided recommendations to Rebuilding Together and other groups repairing and renovating homes to increase the functionality of homes for seniors and to allow younger adults to age in place. Kerrie Ramsdell, MS, LOTR, Assistant Professor, and a group of LSUHSC OT students evaluated the Jacks' home and recommended modifications. Then Kerrie talked the owner of an Iowa company that makes double hospital beds — Transfer Master — into donating a bed.



*Kerrie Ramsdell with the Jacks*

try to make their lives better, each of us according to our ability and capability. It is my hope that more people will step forward and join Kerrie and Transfer Master to donate whatever they can to improve the Jacks' quality of life."

Although Transfer Master's gift was very generous, shipping the bed cross country and installing it in the Jacks' home will require more money. So, Kerrie and Rebuilding Together, along with the Jacks, were featured in a WWL-TV Action Report that aired last night. Hopefully the generosity of our community will take care of the rest. We'll let you know.

"We are focused on the needs of the individual and we were deeply touched by Kerrie Ramsdell's appeal for the Jacks," said Aaron Goldsmith, President of Transfer Master. "Mr. Jack's service to our country and his devotion to his wife are hallmarks of a great person.

It is our duty to all



*OT students Timothy Hayden, Kelly Hooks, Amy Mouldous, & faculty Kerrie Ramsdell*