

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 3, 2007

Regional news conference shows hospital support

Mayor Nagin hosted a press conference on Tuesday that showed broad-based regional support for building the LSU-VA hospital and building it in downtown New Orleans. The leaders of three parishes participated in addition to the New Orleans City Council, the Downtown Development District, Tulane, Dr. Jenkins and I.



Energy and Commerce subcommittee pledges help

On Wednesday, I testified on a panel about graduate medical education before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Capitol Hill.

Two panels provided updates on the status of health care in New Orleans, including progress, remaining challenges and assistance needed. There was a great deal of attention paid to the LSU-VA teaching hospital and its location in downtown New Orleans. The LRA's Kim Boyle and Mayor Nagin emphasized not only the

many benefits of going ahead with the project, but the dire consequences of not doing so.

“Let me be very clear—the joint venture between the state and the VA represents a recovery project that has no peer. Building the VA hospital in downtown New Orleans is the best option for the people of our city and surrounding region,” said Ms. Boyle. “The medical centers will anchor the region’s health professions education, including the LSU and Tulane medical schools and graduate medical education programs dependent on shared clinical space in MCLNO and the VA. Also benefitting from the collection of training assets in the downtown biomedical corridor will be the region’s allied health and nursing training programs, which will be vital to addressing the workforce shortages that are proving to be the leading barrier to the recovery and improvement of health care delivery across Louisiana. Again, should the

VA choose to relocate, the impact on medical education and the city would be devastating, undermining the clinical capacity downtown and potentially driving the medical schools or GME programs away for good.”

I updated the members about satellite health clinics, mental health beds, electronic health records, GME and the need for a firm and immediate commitment from the US Department of Veterans Affairs to the construction of a new academic teaching hospital in downtown New Orleans. It is the linchpin of a reformed health care system.

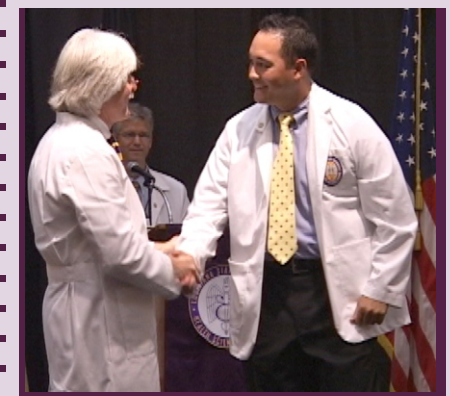
Chairman Rep. Bart Stupak and Vice Chairman Rep. Charlie Melancon suggested using committee staff to work with federal agencies to more rapidly resolve issues and requested monthly briefings by the VA. We are grateful for their support and work on our behalf.

Rising L2s “coated” during ceremony

I was pleased to participate in the White Coat Ceremony last Saturday. White coats, the mantle of the medical profession, were bestowed upon 178 rising 2nd year medical students by faculty members chosen by the class.

Before a packed house of family, friends, and media, Drs. Joseph Delcarpio, Richard DiCarlo, Michael Levitzky, William Swartz, and Ranney Mize coated the students and Dr. Fred Lopez addressed them as the nominee for the 2007 AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award.

The Class of 2010 then recited the



Dr. Joe Delcarpio and Danny Robinson

Oath of Ideals which they composed.

Congratulations to all!