

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



September 19, 2008

Psychiatry helps ease evacuees' return

A group of Psychiatry faculty and trainees spent three days at the Union Passenger Terminal helping New Orleans Gustav evacuees return home. They helped find and carry luggage, navigated wheelchairs, found transportation and got them to the right buses, and provided coping support along the way.



They included Joy Osofsky, PhD, Howard Osofsky, MD, PhD, Charles Coleman, MD, Roger Hachette, MD, Nicholas Pejic, MD, Jim Barbee, MD, Susan Hoffman, LCSW, Richard Costa, PsyD, Mindy Kronenberg, PhD, Ruth Landis, LCSW, Ann Koloski, LCSW, Michele Many, LCSW, Melissa Hardy, MSW, Robert Durant, MD, Desiree Morrell Carter, MD, Gregory Wells, PhD, Aaron Armelie, Lavonda Mickens, Ariel Lloyd, Phillip Stepka, and Michelle Bacon.

LSUHSC Gustav response impressive

A number of LSUHSC faculty, residents, students and staff played significant roles in the response to Hurricane Gustav. Their contributions before, during and after the hurricane, helped our patients and area residents weather the storm.

Dr. Cathi Fontenot led the LSU Interim Hospital through a seamless evacuation of critical needs patients before the storm. The hospital remained open providing vital services and then took not only its own patients back afterwards, but patients from a number of hospitals in Baton Rouge and Houma, damaged in the storm.

Dr. Jim Aiken served as the LSU Interim Hospital Liaison Officer for the Hospital Incident Command System command staff during the event. He facilitated the hospital's supply support of the Union Passenger Terminal City Assisted Evacuation medical unit and then the medical unit at the Convention Center. Afterwards, he

got supplies to the Office of Public Health UPT medical clinic/shelter and supplied physicians to the Jefferson Parish reentry receipt depot at Elmwood.

Dr. Frank Opelka organized faculty to support the UPT and a

Westbank Shelter. Drs. Charles Cefalu, Stacey Holman, and Betty Lo volunteered.

Dr. Lolie Yu and the Pediatric Heme-Onc group treated patients on schedule at the Children's Clinic in Baton Rouge under generator power with an assist from St. Jude.

The Earl K Long faculty quickly and efficiently evacuated patients to UMC in Lafayette when Gustav damaged EKL. They then converted the outpatient surgical center at Vista hospital into inpatient beds, passing inspections and ready for patients in a miraculous 36 hours.

Our ENT residents jumped right in helping transfer and care for patients in Lafayette and Baton Rouge.



Dr. Frank Culicbia with Jefferson Parish officials at Urgent Care Center on Grand Isle