

CHANCELLOR'S Notes

January 16, 2009



Opelka briefs Congress

Dr. Frank Opelka, Vice Chancellor of Clinical Affairs, was one of six health professionals chosen to brief the freshmen members of Congress on health issues. The briefing took place this week in Washington DC. Dr. Opelka was asked to cover health care quality, efficiency, and value, along with health IT and electronic health records.



Dr. Opelka with briefing host Rep. Pete Sessions

Dr. Opelka has long been recognized as a national health leader by industry groups, and now his expertise is being sought by our national political leadership as well.

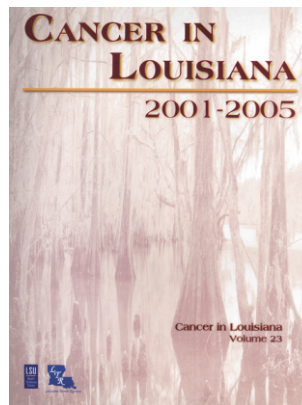
Dentistry & Public Health team up



Dr. Henry Gremillion, Dental School Dean, with Dr. Dionne Richardson, Associate Professor in Dentistry, Dr. Ed Peters, Professor in Public Health, Dr. Caswell Evans, a national expert in oral health and public health from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, Diana Bajoie, LSUHSC Director of Community Relations, and Dr. Janet Leigh, Chair of Oral Medicine and Radiology, at the Dental School after Dr. Caswell's lecture on oral health and public health. Following the lecture, Dr. Evans met with dental students to explore oral public health projects. Dr. Evans spent the morning at the School of Public Health.

Cancer monograph reveals important change in Louisiana

The most significant finding in the latest volume of *Cancer in Louisiana* is that Louisiana's cancer incidence and mortality profile is not improving as rapidly as that of the rest of the nation. *Cancer in Louisiana Volume 23* was recently published by the Louisiana Tumor Registry, a program of our School of Public Health.



Traditionally, most race/sex groups in Louisiana experienced incidence rates for all cancers combined that were similar to or lower than those for the U.S. while their mortality rates significantly exceeded the national rates.

Recently, however, incidence rates for all cancers combined among Louisiana men have remained about level, becoming significantly higher than national rates, which have been declining gradually. High rates of cancers of the lung and colorectum account for most of this difference. The authors of the report note that many cases of these two cancers could be prevented by making lifestyle changes such as avoiding tobacco products, reducing the intake of red meats, and increasing the role of fruits, vegetables, and physical activity in the daily regimen.

You can see the full report at <http://publichealth.lsuhsu.edu/tumorregistry/PDF/Vol23.pdf>.

Thomas awarded singular honor

Dr. Dwayne Thomas, Associate Dean of Health Quality and Patient Safety in the School of Medicine, will become the first research fellow in Public Health Policy at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine. The only Louisianian in the fellowship program, Dr. Thomas will also work in the area of Strategies for Eliminating Health Disparities.



Dr. Dwayne Thomas

The Institute was established by former US Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher to develop a core of leaders to address policy issues related to health care quality, access, and health promotion that can reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities.



We hosted the Board of Regents on Wednesday as they continue their comprehensive review of the Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program. A distinguished national panel conducted group interviews with a wide variety of institutional representatives. The session pictured was with chief academic officers and Dr. Joseph Moerschbaecher is on the far right, second row from back.