

CHANCELLOR'S Notes

August 28, 2009



Physician senator visits Health Sciences Center

One of only two United States Senators who are physicians visited the Health Sciences Center on Friday morning to see firsthand some of the most advanced medical education techniques and tools in the nation – which we helped develop and represent the future of medical education.



Senator John Barrasso, MD (R-WY), toured the Russell Klein, MD Center for Advanced Practice and the Isidore Cohn, Jr., MD Student Learning Center. He also heard about LSUHSC's Rural Scholars Track. One of the most successful programs of its kind in the country, our Rural Scholars Track program is placing LSUHSC graduates in communities where they are most needed.



The 3rd Annual Larry H. Hollier Visiting Professorship in Vascular Surgery takes place at Mayo Clinic this weekend. Unfortunately, it will cause me to miss the Governor's press conference and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the new academic medical center.

Governor, LSU, and Tulane sign MOU on governance

Governor Bobby Jindal hosted a press conference on our campus this afternoon to announce that agreement has been reached on the governance of the new academic medical center in downtown New Orleans.



Following remarks by Governor Jindal, LSU System President Dr. John Lombardi, Tulane President Dr. Scott Cowen, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, DHH Secretary Alan Levine, Mayor Nagin, Dr. Norman Francis, Business Council President Greg Rusovich, Urban League President Nolan Rollins, Rep. Joseph Cao, Sen. Ed Murray (representing legislators), and Arnie Fielkow (representing the City Council), the principals signed multiple copies of the MOU.



This is the next step in the progress of the project. The remaining hurdle is getting the funding FEMA owes for the damage to Charity Hospital following Katrina. The State has the option of either entering arbitration or filing the second appeal. We expect to hear the rules of arbitration

rules of arbitration on Monday and then will have a little while before a decision must be made on which way to go.

Following the press conference, the architects presented details of the new complex, which is to be called University Medical Center, along with a scale model of the new facility.



Designed to replace the 70-year-old Charity Hospital, the new complex will include 424 patient beds, 5 trauma rooms, 76 emergency department stations, 26 behavioral health stations, 23 operating rooms, 8 interventional suites, 186 clinical exam rooms, 31 treatment rooms, 8 CT and 4 MRI scan rooms, as well as 68 conference/class rooms.

The \$1.2 billion project will bring a world class academic medical center and jobs to downtown New Orleans. The design incorporates the best practices of evidence-based design, sustainability, operational efficiency, and flexibility and future growth, and the complex will be built to withstand the effects of natural disasters including wind, floods, and earthquakes.

Early occupancy is expected in 2012 with an estimated completion in 2013.