



CHANCELLOR'S Notes



May 27, 2011

Dental School celebrates faculty, staff

The day after Spring Commencement, the LSUHSC School of Dentistry held Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day to celebrate another successful academic year.



Drs. Larry Hollier, Toby Cheramie, Henry Gremillion

Sponsored by Campus Federal Credit Union, Glaxo-SmithKline, LSUSD Student Government Association, and Chef Paul Prudhomme and Magic Seasoning Blends, the Aloha Ya'll Cajun style Hawaiian luau featured music, a disc jockey, karaoke, a "second line" parade, handkerchief decorating, door prizes galore, a hula hoop contest, volleyball, badminton, horseshoes and, of course, a cochon de "lei".



Hosted by the Dean, it was a great way to say thank you to those who make the School of Dentistry so special. ■

LSUHSC's Opelka tapped for national effort to improve health care quality and value

Dr. Frank Opelka, Vice Chancellor for Clinical Affairs, has been selected to participate as a member of the newly established Measure Applications Partnership. Dr. Opelka chairs three workgroups-- the Hospital Workgroup, the Ad Hoc Safety Workgroup, and the Ad Hoc Cancer Workgroup. MAP is a public-private partnership convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF) for the explicit purpose of providing input to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the selection of performance measures for public reporting and performance-based payment programs, as required in The Affordable Care Act.



The choice of measures for gauging and rewarding progress is so important that no one perspective is adequate to inform the task. MAP is a unique voice in healthcare, blending the views of diverse groups who all have a vested interest in improving the quality of healthcare.

MAP is designed to support broader national efforts to create better, more affordable care. Its work will strengthen public reporting, which has been demonstrated to improve quality, and will give people more and better information when making healthcare choices and help providers improve their performance. MAP recommendations also will help shape payment programs, creating powerful financial incentives to providers to improve care. Consumer and purchaser stakeholders will have a place and a voice in every discussion. Lastly, measure selection decisions made in public programs often have a spillover effect in private insurance markets, so choices made by HHS may have a much broader impact over time.

The Measure Applications Partnership has real potential to enact positive change in our nation's healthcare system and build on a decade of remarkable work to develop measures that can help bring greater value into healthcare. We now have hundreds of measures, but MAP can help users pick the right ones for their applications. Desired outcomes include a defragmentation of care delivery, heightened accountability of clinicians and providers, better and more information for consumer decision making, higher value for spending by aligning payment with performance, a reduced data collection burden through the alignment of measurement activities, and an improvement in the consistent provision of evidence-based care across measured domains.

The MAP Coordinating Committee will be providing input to HHS in fall 2011, and HHS will begin utilizing this input in the calendar year 2012. ■

Camp Tiger 2011 gives special kids a special week

Camp Tiger 2011 gave 130 special needs kids the time of their lives this week. The free, week-long summer day camp for children other camps can't take, is planned, organized, staffed, and funded by the efforts of first-year students at the School of Medicine at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans.

This year, the good times rolled at places with plenty of hands-on fun and a variety of activities. Campers played with baby gators at the Insta-Gator Ranch – a working Louisiana alligator farm. They saw exotic wildlife at the Global Wildlife Center. The bumper cars beckoned at City Park's Amusement Park and Storyland. And the stingrays at the Aquarium of the Americas gave campers a special greeting. Campers and counselors alike enjoyed the Audubon Zoo, Laser Tag/KidSports, and lunch at the Fly, as well as the Louisianan Children's Museum. A highlight was "practicing" at the New Orleans Saints training facility and leading cheers with the Saintsations. Camp Tiger came to a close with a carnival and awards banquet.

Camp Tiger was founded in 1985 by first-year students from the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine. Its mission is to give disadvantaged and challenged children an enjoyable summer camp experience. For the campers, this may be their only chance during the summer to socialize with other children without being singled out for their disabilities. This week-long day camp lets campers be "just one of the kids" and provides them with freedom to play, socialize, and express themselves as healthy, vibrant children. Camp



Tiger is organized and staffed each year by LSUHSC medical student volunteers under the supervision of faculty advisor Dr. Joseph Delcarpio, Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students look forward to the opportunity to work with these exceptional children and serve the community. Since its inception, Camp Tiger has benefitted more than 1,500 children from the Greater New Orleans area.

Besides beginning the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans tradition of community outreach, Camp Tiger gives these first-year and incoming first-year LSUHSC medical students an opportunity to begin dealing with some of the medical conditions they may encounter during their professional careers. ■