



CHANCELLOR'S *Notes*



July 8, 2011

Hospital financing in hand

The UMC Board withdrew its application for mortgage insurance from HUD this week. This was a voluntary action consistent with the strategy of staging construction, and beginning with the hospital.

The funding the state already has in hand, along with about \$100 million in additional funding from FEMA for destroyed contents, totals about \$900 million – more than adequate to build a 424-bed hospital as planned with no bond financing at all.



Following the groundbreaking in April, the hospital project remains on schedule with pile driving to commence next month.

After the Board's action, Governor Jindal reiterated his commitment to building University Medical Center as a teaching hospital, a safety net for the un- or under-insured, a destination for the highest quality medical care, and as a research center attracting millions of dollars of outside investment, saying nothing would stop the project. ■

LSUHSC launches landmark study of long-term health effects of Gulf oil spill

The LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Public Health is launching the first study ever done of the mid- and long-term health consequences of exposure to oil. With funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, LSUHSC will enroll a total of 8,000 participants—4,000 women in the general population of seven parishes affected by the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil spill (Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, Terrebonne, and St. Mary), plus 2,000 wives of individuals who were involved in the clean-up, as well as 2,000 children.



The \$3.5 million study will follow participants over a five-year period to determine not only the physical and mental health effects, but also how the oil spill affected them in terms of their family interactions and connections in the community. Led by PI Dr. Edward Trapido, the team will look at changes in eating seafood, pregnancy issues, resiliency, and economic well-being in an

area that has suffered major natural and man-made disasters.

“Having attended and participated in community meetings over the past year, we have heard the concerns,” says Dr. Trapido. “And working with the communities, the LSUHSC New Orleans School of Public Health wants to help provide answers.” ■

Dental Summer Enrichment diversifies profession

The 4th annual Summer Enrichment Program at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry came to a close with a ceremony this afternoon for the ten participants and their families.

Under the direction of Dr. John Ritchie, the six-week intensive program prepares under-



graduate students to take

the DAT and be admitted to dental school. The curriculum is a blend of lectures and hands-on experience in the lab and in the clinic doing everything from carving wax to drilling and filling.

Of the 39 previous participants, 17 are enrolled in dental schools, including the



LSUHSC School of Dentistry. ■