



CHANCELLOR'S Notes



September 16, 2011

LSUHSC students reach out

LSUHSC nursing and dental hygiene faculty and students partnered with the Early Childhood & Family Learning Foundation to conduct health and oral health screenings at Craig Elementary School yesterday.



The LSUHSC students measured height, weight, blood pressure, and calculated BMI. They also checked teeth and mouths for cavities or other oral health problems. The students talked to the children about brushing and flossing and ways to keep their smiles and bodies healthy.

Outreach activities like this provide opportunities for our



students to gain critical hands-on experience while bringing valuable service to vulnerable populations who might otherwise go without.



Joint Budget Committee votes unanimously to move UMC forward

The Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget voted unanimously this morning to approve a motion made by Senator Ed Murray to move forward on the University Medical Center project.



The vote followed the presentation of the Verite business plan approved by the UMC Board at its meeting last week. Chairman Bobby Yarborough and Board members Dr. Byron Harrell, Elaine Abell, and Darryl Berger testified and fielded legislator's questions.

The vote permits the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control to begin permanent construction of the new teaching hospital, marking a milestone in medical education and health care in Louisiana. The 424-hospital is slated to open in 2015.

LSUHSC research shows protein is breast cancer inhibitor

Research led by Dr. Suresh Alahari, the Fred Brazda Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at LSUHSC and its Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center, has found that a protein discovered by his laboratory can inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells.

The research, published September 14, 2011 in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, builds upon Dr. Alahari's earlier discovery of Nischarin, a novel protein that regulates breast cancer cell migration and movement. This study examines the presence and levels of Nischarin in breast cancer tumor tissue as well as normal breast tissue samples. They found that normal breast tissue samples had significantly higher levels of Nischarin compared with tumor tissue samples. Tumors grew significantly faster in the cells where the production of Nischarin was blocked and less when it was overproduced. The research shows that Nischarin can function as a tumor suppressor of breast cancer, inhibiting breast cancer progression.

