NIH awards LSUHSC grant for pneumonia vaccine

Dr. Judd Shellito, Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, has been awarded a $9 million grant to develop a vaccine against Pneumocystis, an important cause of pneumonia in people with HIV infection. This potentially fatal illness is the most common serious opportunistic infection in people with HIV. The 5-year grant was awarded by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

Classified as a fungal pneumonia, Pneumocystis pneumonia does not respond to antifungal treatment. It can also cause lung infection in people whose immune function is suppressed due to cancer, chronic use of corticosteroids, or transplants.

Dr. Shellito has served as principal investigator on this Program Project grant which has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for 11 years. At the conclusion of the project, it will have brought nearly $17 million in federal funding to LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans.

Biosciences economy advances with new health resource

The latest in a series of new multi-million dollar projects in the burgeoning health care and biosciences industry in New Orleans officially opened Wednesday. Mayor Mitch Landrieu joined Dr. John Lombardi, President of the LSU System, and other dignitaries to cut the ribbon on the LSU Health Faculty Medical Practice clinical offices at 3700 St. Charles Avenue.

The $7.8 million, 7-floor, 70,000 square foot facility, formerly the St. Charles General Hospital, was returned to commerce through a partnership between see St. Charles, page 2

LSUHSC dental students mark rite of passage

Sixty-five LSUHSC dental students received their white coats – the symbol of clinical practice – today. Before an audience of family, friends, faculty, and staff, members of the Class of 2014 officially and publicly marked their passage from student to clinician during the White Coat Ceremony.

It was an exciting ceremony recognizing second-year dental students as they transitioned from lectures and preclinical studies to dental clinical practice.

Following remarks from Dean Henry Gremillion, DDS, MAGD, 2002 alumna, Dr. Claudia Cavallino, and Class Vice President, Rosalie Nguyen, the students were see White Coat, page 2
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LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans and Touro Infirmary which renovated and leases the facility to the LSU Healthcare Network.

With the consolidation of multiple medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties, along with dental, nursing, and allied health services under the same roof, the facility will house, for the first time, a true integrated multidisciplinary LSUHSC practice.

The new home of the New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic, services also include primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology, ophthalmology, surgical specialties, oral and maxillofacial surgery, physical therapy, and internal medicine specialties such as endocrinology, pulmonary, rheumatology, nephrology, and allergy-immunology. In addition to exam rooms, resources include an infusion suite, vascular lab, OB/GYN procedural room and support services necessary for providing the quality health care that is the hallmark of LSUHSC clinicians.

The LSU Healthcare Network takes care of patients through 110,000 visits annually, with more than 45,000 patient care visits uptown.

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“coated” by Drs. John Ritchie and Mark Winkler as Dr. Sandra Andrieu called them up to the stage.

The students then recited the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry Professional Oath in unison and publicly pledged to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards in dentistry. The framed oath, signed by each member of the class, will be hung at the school on permanent display.

Dr. Oz visits LSUHSC

 Chancellor Larry Hollier, MD, hosted two-time Daytime Emmy award winner Dr. Mehmet Oz, of the Dr. Oz Show, this afternoon and gave him a tour of the country’s most advanced patient simulation education and demonstration centers. Dr. Oz wasn’t treated any differently than any other visitor. He was thrown into a scenario with a “patient” in acute distress.

Dr. Oz jumped right in and was able to save the “patient.”

He also jumped right in to help New Orleans after Katrina and was astounded to see just how far we have come.