



DR. LARRY HOLLIER

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



December 23, 2011

Dental School warms spirits

In the true spirit of the season, the LSUHSC School of Dentistry launched a new outreach program called *Help Us Help our Veterans*. Faculty, staff, and students donated packs of warm socks for veterans whose sacrifices have kept us safe and free but who have since fallen on



Drs. Henry Gremillion & Suzanne Farrar

hard times. As we're getting into colder weather, the socks will hopefully warm hearts, too, letting our homeless veterans know that they are not forgotten.

The socks will be distributed by the Volunteers of America which runs a transitional housing program for homeless veterans. LSUHSC has worked with this program that offers counseling, job training and a host of other services designed to help homeless veterans rebuild their lives. ■

LSUHSC has many blessings to count

This is the time when we pause and reflect on the year winding down, and LSU Health Sciences Center has many successes to celebrate.

Our enrollment overall is the highest it's ever been, with the largest class in Nursing. It is a testament to the dedication, skill, and reputation of our faculty that so many young people continue to entrust their futures to us. Their trust is well placed as LSUHSC had a perfect pass rate on nearly two-thirds of licensure exams, and almost 30% had passage rates



between 90 and 99%. With another successful Match in March revealing 60% of our graduates choosing to stay

in Louisiana, LSU Health Sciences Center is pleased to provide the majority of new physicians for our state.

LSUHSC faculty treat patients in both public and private settings. You will find them in every major



hospital and clinic in South Louisiana taking care of patients through hundreds of thousands of outpatient and emergency department visits and tens of thousands of inpatient admissions. The LSU Health Care Network alone provides care through more than 100,000 patient visits a year, and the School of Dentistry through nearly 50,000.

Major milestones in medical education, health care and economic development were achieved in 2011 through the new LSU-affiliated University Medical Center. Ground was broken in April. The UMC Board approved the new business plan in September as did the Joint Budget Committee of the Louisiana Legislature which cleared the way for construction. Work is progressing on this project which



see *Blessings*, page 2

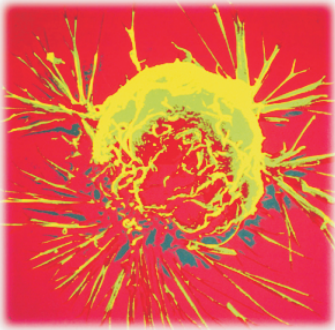
Blessings, from page 1

the mayor has said “will dwarf the consequences of the Superdome and the Convention Center and has the potential of transforming the City of New Orleans from not only a great city, but being a world-class city.” The 424-bed teaching hospital is on track to open in 2015.

Speaking of the mayor and openings, Mayor Landrieu joined LSU System President Dr. John Lombardi, LSUHSC leadership 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 consolidates multiple medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties, along with dental, nursing, and allied health services under the same roof. The facility houses, for the first time, a true integrated multidisciplinary LSUHSC practice.



The LSUHSC research enterprise continued to thrive this year. Research expenditures exceeded \$50 million and new grants included \$9 million to the School of Medicine to develop a pneumonia vaccine, \$4.3 million to the



School of Nursing to restore primary care to elders in an under-served area and increase diversity and culturally-sensitive care, and about a million dollars to the Louisiana Tumor Registry in the School of Public Health to create a new tool to rapidly collect and report cancer cases in children. We also established the \$1 million Al Copeland/Cancer Crusaders Chair in Neuroendocrine Cancer. Discoveries include a protein that stops breast cancer growth, markers for metabolic diseases in healthy children aged 7-9, how cancer becomes resistant to a common chemotherapy drug, fish oil is key to the survival of brain cells, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy improves symptoms from traumatic brain injury and PTSD.

Outreach activities at LSUHSC reached new highs this year. Camp Tiger 2011 was the most successful one ever. This free summer day camp for special needs kids is run by LSUHSC first-year medical students. The dental students' Making Impressions program brought smiles and needed oral health resources to some of those most in need. Nursing faculty and students conducted screenings at the farmer's markets and in elementary schools in under-served areas. Allied Health faculty and students conducted backpack screenings, OT awareness, and physical therapy students assessed strength and fitness. LSUHSC responded to disasters, providing supplies to students in



Alabama after the tornadoes, and sending a team to Japan to help children, families, teachers, and government agencies cope with the aftermath of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown. LSUHSC faculty also provided assistance to those most affected by the Gulf Oil Spill. The LSUHSC Science Partnership Program collected enough books in its inaugural Book Drive to provide every K-8 student in partner public schools with a book to take home. LSUHSC was instrumental in getting legislation passed to educate parents, athletes, coaches, and schools about the dangers of concussions. The free Oral Cancer Screening picked up an undiagnosed cancer in the first hour.

The LSUHSC Student Homeless Clinic is providing care for more and more people who would otherwise go without.

That LSUHSC faculty, staff, and students rise to every challenge and manage to do more with even less despite budget reductions we have sustained is a testament to their character, dedication, and can-do spirit. They are the most valuable of the all the LSUHSC blessings. Hats off to them for all they accomplished this year, and here's to an even better 2012!