Public-private partnerships progress

Beginning with a press conference held on our campus Monday morning announcing MOUs with partners for three of the LSU public hospitals in the southern part of the state, the public-private partnerships to protect graduate medical education and preserve health care services are progressing through the approval process.

The Interim LSU Hospital and the new University Medical Center in New Orleans are partnering with Louisiana Children’s Medical Center; In Houma, the Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center has two partners — Ochsner Health System and Terrebonne General Medical Center; and University Medical Center in Lafayette will partner with Lafayette General Medical Center.

As the "gold seal," AAHRPP accreditation offers assurances—to research participants, researchers, sponsors, government regulators, and the general public—that a program is focused first and foremost on excellence.
The partnership in New Orleans required approval by the University Medical Center Management Board which met and voted Thursday afternoon. Then today, the LSU Board of Supervisors held a special meeting to consider the plan. The Board of Supervisors also voted to approve the MOUs, permitting the partnerships to advance.

In New Orleans, the partnership with Louisiana Children’s Medical Center which operates Children’s Hospital and Touro Infirmary, eliminates the need for the proposed ILH cuts and creates critical stability. This partnership preserves residency programs, eliminates the disruption of patient-physician relationships, and retains a safety-net hospital in New Orleans. Other benefits include that the Interim LSU Hospital maintains its current size and the psych beds, Level One Trauma beds are not closed, women’s services are not reduced, immediate layoffs are eliminated with employees being given the first opportunity to obtain high quality employment with the partners. The arrangement also allows the Interim LSU Hospital to grow while transitioning into a world-class University Medical Center and destination hospital.

The MOUs state that it is the intention of the parties to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreements by the end of March, and after presentation to the Joint Budget Committee of the Louisiana Legislature, to close the transactions by July 1.

According to the National Eye Institute, the Council advises, assists, consults with, and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the National Eye Institute (NEI) on matters related to the activities carried out by and through the NEI and the policies respecting these activities. The Council may review applications for grants and cooperative agreements for research and training and recommend approval of applications for projects which show promise of making valuable contributions to human knowledge; may review any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement proposed to be made or entered into by the Institute; may collect, by correspondence or by personal investigation, information as to studies which are being carried on in the United States or any other country and, with the approval of the Director of NEI, make available such information through appropriate publications for the benefit of public and private health entities, health professions personnel and scientists, and for the information of the general public.