LSUHSC continues to supply state’s physicians

Today’s Match Day 2014 results revealed good news for the people of Louisiana. Fifty-three percent, or 92 of 175 LSUHSC New Orleans graduating medical students participating in the National Resident Match Program this year, chose to remain in Louisiana to complete their medical training, and 75% of those staying in-state will enter an LSU residency program. The LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans residency programs accepted 182 new residents.

The percentage of LSUHSC New Orleans medical graduates going into primary care is 57% this year, a significant increase over last year’s 43%. Primary Care specialties included are Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Medicine-Preliminary, Medicine-Primary, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Medicine-Pediatrics. Ob-GYN is not always included in primary care data; however, in some Louisiana communities the only physician is an OB-GYN.

That more than half of our graduating medical students have chosen to remain in Louisiana again this year and all of our residency programs filled is a testament to the high quality of our graduate medical education programs.

Residency programs begin July 1, 2014.
At a recent City Council meeting, New Orleans City Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson presented Dr. Melinda Sothern, Professor and Director of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences at the LSUHSC School of Public Health, with a proclamation honoring Dr. Sothern’s selection as a Distinguished Alumna of the Human Performance and Health Promotion Department for the 50th model of care developed by the Department of Psychiatry at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Medicine to provide mental health services after the Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill reduced both mental health and general medical symptoms. The novel approach embedded psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and telemedicine resources into primary care clinics in the most affected areas. This new model can be used in communities at risk for disasters and rural communities with limited mental health resources.

After researching existing models of care nationally, the LSUHSC team, led by Dr. Howard Osofsky, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry, found none fully adaptable to the postdisaster needs of close-knit, rural communities with inadequate availability of mental health resources. So, they integrated behavioral health with primary care to build sustainable services along with community resilience. This was especially important given the LSUHSC-documented increase in mental disorders the Gulf Oil Spill compounded in communities still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

It’s an interprofessional stepped-care collaborative where primary care providers can treat behavioral health issues in regular consultation with mental health professionals and clinical decision support. If the behavioral health problem is outside of the comfort level of the primary care provider, treatment is managed by the mental health professional, along with telemedicine care.

LSUHSC’s Sothern recognized by City Council

LSUHSC Mental health care model reduced symptoms in those most affected by BP oil spill

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Coming up

The Camp Tiger Benefit Auction – the major fundraiser supporting the free, week-long summer day camp for children with special needs in the metropolitan New Orleans and Baton Rouge communities – is on Friday, March 28, 2014, from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m., at the New Orleans Museum of Art, 1 Collin Diboll Circle (City Park at Esplanade). Camp Tiger is planned, organized, staffed, and funded by the efforts of first-year students at the School of Medicine at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans. The LSUHSC medical students have set a fund-raising goal of $150,000 to help underwrite the cost of the 2014 Camp Tiger so it remains free to campers and their families.

CAMP TIGER BENEFIT AUCTION

March 28th, 2014
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM
New Orleans Museum of Art

Silent/Live Auction Tickets
General $50
Student/Faculty $25
Tickets available at the door or in advance by contacting camppleneryauction@gmail.com.
For more ticket information visit www.CampTiger.org

For a donation of $50, the evening promises to be full of fun and bargains with delicious food donated by restaurants, live music and spectacular silent and live auctions. It’s a great place to shop for birthday, Christmas, anniversary or other gifts while helping to make a unique and meaningful outreach program possible.

Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson, Dr. Melinda Sothern, Ron Gardner, Allyson Nobles, David Hebert and Dr. Richard Culbertson

Dr. Howard Osofsky