Baylor University Medical Center celebrates 100th anniversary

October 16, 2003, marked the 100th anniversary of Baylor University Medical Center, and celebrations were held on campus, with more than 5700 employees participating (Figure 1). A few weeks before the anniversary, the Texas Historical Commission recognized BUMC as a significant part of Texas history by awarding it an official Texas historical marker, which is located on Junius Street near Jonsson Hospital.

Figure 1. Baylor leaders, past and present, celebrating Baylor’s birthday: current presidents Joel Allison (BHCS) and Tim Parris (BUMC) with former BHCS president, Boone Powell, Jr.

Baylor Research Institute receives $14.6 million grant from National Institutes of Health

Baylor Research Institute (BRI) has received a $14.6 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) to form the Baylor/NIAID Center for Translational Research on Human Immunology and Biodefense. Investigators will study the human immune system’s response to emerging pathogens, such as West Nile virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and other virulent agents, and seek to develop vaccines against them. The center will focus primarily on the study of dendritic cells, which activate and control the immune system and play a major role in vaccination.

“While vaccines have been developed to combat many infectious diseases, natural evolution has created new biotreatments for which new and different vaccines are needed. We want to transition this research quickly and safely from the laboratory into clinical practice,” said Jacques Banchereau, PhD, director of BRI’s Institute for Immunology Research and the new Baylor/NIAID Center for Translational Research on Human Immunology and Biodefense.

Interfaith Garden of Prayer unveiled; Maya Angelou speaks at dedication

In 1997, a group of Baylor chaplains, physicians, social workers, nurses, and other staff from various faiths gathered to explore ways to contribute to Baylor’s founders’ mission for a great humanitarian institution where people of all faiths and those of none could come with equal confidence. One of the main visions of this interfaith task force was the creation of a sacred place of beauty and serenity where patients, their families, staff, and visitors could come for prayer and meditation. This vision became a reality with the Interfaith Garden of Prayer, which was dedicated on October 16, 2003, in conjunction with Baylor’s 100th anniversary celebration (Figure 2).

Maya Angelou participated in the dedication ceremony before addressing 1100 attendees of Baylor’s 39th Annual Powhatan W. James Lecture (Figure 3). She commended Baylor’s founders “for pursuing the dream of building a place where poor people could come . . . and would receive first-class care.” One of the foremost women of our time, Dr. Angelou is a poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, and film producer and director.

Figure 2. The Interfaith Garden of Prayer on the BUMC campus, designed based on a spiritual labyrinth.

Figure 3. Maya Angelou speaking to a Baylor group on October 16, 2003.

Baylor Research Institute becomes fifth US center to receive accreditation from national organization

BRI is one of 5 organizations across the country that will receive funding for this new research program over the next 4½ years. Dr. Banchereau will lead a team of investigators primarily from BRI, as well as NIAID, Yale University, Rockefeller University, the University of New Mexico, and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

The association describes accreditation as “a tangible demonstration to the public that an organization goes beyond minimal legal requirements in making protection of research participants a top priority.”

“Accreditation is a significant achievement, signaling BRI’s proactive commitment to high standards and the protection of research participants,” said Michael Ramsay, MD, BRI president. “This distinction represents an important milestone to achieving Baylor’s vision of becoming the most trusted source of comprehensive health care. Accreditation communicates BRI’s dedication to professionalism and high standards.”

$51 million tower opened at Grapevine; expanded facility renamed Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine

The Ed and Minnie Lee Lancaster Patient Tower, the new $51 million 6-story patient building, opened at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine. The medical center’s new name reflects the advanced services offered by Baylor
Grapevine’s clinical staff to more than 500,000 people living in more than 20 cities throughout this region of the Dallas–Fort Worth metropole.

The new tower adds 87,000 square feet to the hospital’s existing 198,000 square feet. Ninety-three additional beds will support growth of inpatient services, bringing the total bed count to 197. Two new operating rooms “supersurgical suites” provide essential tools for the medical center’s neurosurgery and open heart surgery program. The patient tower expansion is the largest in the medical center’s history.

The tower’s name honors longtime Grapevine residents, medical center supporters, and donors, Drs. Ed and Minnie Lee Lancaster, who opened the Grapevine Clinic and Hospital in 1953, the forerunner of today’s regional medical center. Dr. Minnie Lee Lancaster served on the Baylor Grapevine medical staff until her death in 2003. Dr. Ed Lancaster is retired. Funding for the project was derived from a community fundraising campaign, “Caring for Generations,” and Baylor Health Care System.

**First open heart surgery performed at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine**

Although Baylor Grapevine already offered cardiac diagnostic and rehabilitation services, the addition of the operating room supersuites in the new patient tower has enabled cardiovascular surgeons to initiate an open heart surgery program. These supersuites contain an image archiving system that allows the surgical team immediate viewing of critical patient images during the procedure. The Hermes voice-activated systems allows surgeons to control operating room suite lighting, bed position, and surgical devices. Multiple viewing monitors enhance educational teleconferencing and teaching possibilities.

“Until recently, cardiovascular services of this caliber meant a trip far from home for patients in the region. Now, we can deliver these advanced services right in their own community,” said Phillip Hecht, MD, medical staff president and cardiologist on staff at Baylor Grapevine.

On October 30, 2003, Albert Brown, a Carrollton, Texas, resident, became the first open heart surgery patient at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine. When Mr. Brown began experiencing chest pains while playing golf on a local course, his golfing partners quickly called an emergency medical response team. Although unfamiliar with Baylor Grapevine’s medical services, Mr. Brown followed the advice of the Grapevine Fire Department paramedics and came by ambulance to the medical center.

**Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine initiates brain surgery program**

On October 28, 2003, the neurosurgical team inaugurated the new neurosurgical suite at Baylor Regional Medical Center during that facility’s first brain surgery. “Everything went as planned,” said David Rothbart, MD, the neurosurgeon who led the 7-member team. “The team was more than prepared.”

**ACCOLADES**

- Clay Cockerell, MD, from BUMC’s division of dermatology, was elected 66th president of the American Academy of Dermatology. His 1-year term will begin in February 2005.
- Robert L. Fine, MD, chairman of the institutional ethics committee for Baylor Health Care System, received the first Champion Award from the Texas Partnership for End-of-Life Care on November 14, 2003. Dr. Fine has served as a physician leader of the Texas Advance Directives Task Force and has been instrumental in writing laws that guide end-of-life decisions in Texas.
- Barry S. Smith, MD, medical director, chief of service, and residency program director in the physical medicine and rehabilitation program at BUMC, was honored with the Distinguished Member Award from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.
- Clyde W. Yancy, Jr., MD, of BUMC’s heart transplant team, was named Physician of the Year by the American Heart Association.
- Several physicians on the Baylor Health Care System medical staff were recently recognized as “Healthcare Heroes” by the Dallas Business Journal: James W. Walton, DO, community outreach winner; Clyde W. Yancy Jr., MD, physicians award finalist; and Göran B. Klintmalm, MD, PhD, academics award finalist.

**RECENT GRANTS**

- “Human dendritic cells and in vivo immunity to bioterror”
  - Principal investigator: Jacques Banchereau, PhD
  - Sponsor: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
  - Total funding: $14,591,229
  - Award period: September 30, 2003–March 31, 2008

- “Performance measurements to improve quality of care”
  - Principal investigator: David J. Ballard, MD, PhD
  - Sponsor: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
  - Total funding: $36,752
  - Award period: October 23, 2003–October 22, 2004

- “Mice with human dendritic cells to test vaccine potency”
  - Principal investigator: Karolina Palucka, MD
  - Sponsor: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
  - Total funding: $458,188
  - Award period: August 1, 2003–July 31, 2005

The team performed a craniotomy on patient Shannon Primer, 27, who had experienced severe headaches due to a formation of an abnormal collection of blood vessels within her brain. Mrs. Primer returned home 48 hours after her surgery.

The medical center’s new operating rooms make way for minimally invasive spine surgery and advanced brain surgery. With a new cranial image guidance system, surgeons may use a patient’s magnetic resonance images to navigate through the patient’s brain or spine with a new level of safety. A high-performance computer transformed Mrs. Primer’s magnetic resonance image into a 3-dimensional model that Dr. Rothbart used as a guide during her surgery. Team members followed Dr. Rothbart’s precise moves within the patient’s brain as the team viewed the surgery’s progress on flat-screen video monitors in the suite. A camera within the neuromicroscope transmitted these images to the monitors. Later in the surgery,
the surgeon’s headlamp camera captured the surgical images as they occurred, transmitting the images to the monitors.

The neurosurgery program offers outpatient, minimally invasive spine surgery for procedures from herniated discs to disabling spinal fractures caused by osteoporosis.

The A. Webb Roberts Center for Continuing Education of Baylor Health Care System is offering the following programs:

- **Urology Update**, March 26, 2004, at BUMC
- **Seventh Annual Tyler Breast Conference**, March 27, 2004, at Harvey Convention Center, Tyler
- **Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment of Esophagogastric Carcinoma**, April 24, 2004, at BUMC
- **Second Annual Course: Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Trauma**, May 6–8, 2004, at Four Seasons Resort and Club, Las Colinas

For more information, call 214-820-2317.

In addition, **Focus on Research** forums at BUMC offer CME credit. The following program will be featured:

**Mini-retreat**, January 27, 2004

The forum will be held in the Folsom Room, 17 Roberts, at noon. For more information, contact Janet Collinson at 214-820-2687.

In October 2003, Dr. William C. Roberts, editor in chief, announced the winner of the third Ralph R. Tompsett Writing Award. The $1500 prize went to Amit Patel, MD, for his article, “Surgical management of esophageal carcinoma,” published in the July 2003 issue. In addition to reviewing current literature on esophageal carcinoma, Dr. Patel retrospectively reviewed Baylor’s experience and proposed a treatment algorithm. Coauthors on the article were John T. Preskitt, MD, Joseph A. Kuhn, MD, Robert F. Hebeler, MD, Richard E. Wood, MD, and Harold C. Urschel, MD.

The Ralph R. Tompsett Writing Award is ongoing. However, beginning in 2004, the award will no longer be limited to residents and fellows; all authors who published that year will be eligible. The editorial board will vote on the best article at its meeting in February, and the winner will receive a plaque.

In addition, Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth has received approval from the United Network for Organ Sharing to begin performing pancreas transplants. The Baylor All Saints pancreas transplant program will be the first of its kind in Tarrant County. The transplant team expects to perform 8 to 10 pancreas transplants in 2003 and about 20 transplants in 2004. Pancreas transplants often are performed on patients with diabetes and frequently are performed in conjunction with kidney transplants.

**Advanced scanner customizes care for patients at Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie**

Neurology, trauma, oncology, and cardiology patients will benefit from the precise and fast diagnostic capabilities provided by the new $1.2 million computed tomography scanner at Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie. With the availability of a high-speed computed tomography scanner, some diagnostic tests, which previously required a hospital stay, now may be done as outpatient procedures. Diagnostic procedures using the new scanner eliminate use of imaging dyes injected in the patient’s body to view organs such as the heart. In addition, the high-speed scanner cuts scanning time in half.

Please send news items to Cynthia Orticio by email (cynthiao@BaylorHealth.edu) or fax (214-820-4064). All news items are subject to editing and confirmation.