

■ **BUMC and Baylor Irving receive national recognition for quality**

Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas (BUMC) and Baylor Medical Center at Irving were recipients of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence in February 2006. This award was given to the top 5% of hospitals nationwide; these 277 top hospitals have mortality rates that are 27% lower than those of other hospitals across the country, and their patients are 14% less likely to develop complications after certain procedures. If all US hospitals performed as well as those rated in the top 5%, nearly 153,000 lives could have been saved during the 3-year study period.

These findings were the result of a survey conducted from 2002 to 2004 of over 5000 hospitals that examined the Medicare records for 26 inpatient procedures for 39 million patient visits. Some of the procedures that were studied included back surgery, coronary bypass operations, and hip replacements. Because of the growing emphasis on quality, ratings have become increasingly important in helping consumers choose where to seek medical treatment.

■ **Baylor All Saints receives record gift, plans women's hospital**

Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth has received a \$10 million donation from a Tarrant County family, the largest single health care gift in the county's history. The gift will go towards Baylor All Saints' \$100 million campus expansion, including a new 92-bed women's hospital. The hospital will offer comprehensive specialty services such as reproductive medicine, gynecological surgery, pelvic medicine, obstetrical services, and a level III intensive care unit for premature and low-birthweight infants. Baylor All Saints also plans to offer a comprehensive breast center, genetic testing services, an aesthetic center, a urinary incontinence treatment center, and a sexual dysfunction clinic.

■ **Baylor breaks ground and renames Frisco hospital**

On December 6, 2005, Frisco Medical Center changed its name to Baylor Medical Center at Frisco and broke ground on a \$40 million expansion. The expansion project will add 12 beds and 5 operating rooms and will

APPOINTMENTS

Paul Convery, MD, has been named Baylor Health Care System's chief medical officer. Dr. Convery has 18 years of medical management and health care leadership experience, including serving as chief medical officer of SSM Health Care in St. Louis, Missouri, a Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award winner. As chief medical officer, he will play a critical role working with physician and operational leadership to advance health care improvement initiatives throughout the system, including clinical transformation.

On February 6, 2006, **Mark Valentine** began serving as president of the 68-bed Texas Heart Hospital of the Southwest, which will open in January 2007 near Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano. Mr. Valentine has more than 14 years of experience in working with cardiovascular physicians and with heart facilities recognized for their comprehensive cardiovascular services. Before joining Baylor, he was vice president of cardiology and vascular services for the Cleveland Clinic Health System Western Region.

Joseph S. Benbenek III was appointed senior vice president/general counsel for Baylor Health Care System. Mr. Benbenek has extensive experience in handling legal issues within the health care industry. He came to Baylor from Christus Health in Houston, Texas, where he advised leaders on health care laws, regulations, compliance measures, and operational issues and agreements.

Jerri Garison was named president of Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano. She has been employed with Baylor Health Care System for more than 15 years, most recently as interim president of Baylor Plano, president of Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie, and chief operating officer at Baylor Medical Center at Irving.

Jay Fox was named president of Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie after serving as interim president since September 2005. A 15-year employee of Baylor, Mr. Fox has served as executive director of Our Children's House at Baylor in Dallas and as vice president of operations for Baylor Specialty Health Centers.

increase the size of the emergency department and laboratory. In addition, a medical education center will be built that will allow physicians to learn some of the latest medical techniques. The expansion and name change will allow Baylor Health Care System to better serve the needs of the Frisco community. Currently, about 7000 procedures are performed there annually. This expansion will increase that capability to 11,000.

■ **Level 1 trauma center at BUMC continues to earn recognition**

BUMC's level 1 trauma center—one of only two adult level 1 centers in Dallas—Fort Worth—was recently reverified by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma with high marks and the highest possible level designation. BUMC was first recognized as a trauma center in 1998. "Baylor University Medical Center is dedicated to providing this crucial service to the community and providing it at a level consistent with our quality standards and the level 1 status," said President John McWhorter. "Not only do we offer advanced

levels of care in many specialty areas, but we give those in life-and-death situations access to these services 24 hours a day."

■ **Carotid stent procedure provides minimally invasive option to prevent ischemic strokes**

Traditionally, surgeons perform a carotid endarterectomy to prevent stroke. The carotid artery stent alternative is a minimally invasive option. During this 1-hour procedure performed in the cardiac catheterization lab, interventional cardiovascular specialists at Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth use a combination of balloon angioplasty and a stent implant to unblock and reopen the carotid artery. The carotid artery stent procedure requires an overnight hospitalization rather than the multi-day stay required for traditional surgery. "This exciting new use for stents, which have proven to be very beneficial in treating heart disease, is poised to revolutionize the treatment of patients with carotid artery disease and stroke," said Vijay Kalaria, MD, an interventional cardiologist at Baylor All Saints.

■ **Baylor researchers participate in national trial to study effects of exercise on heart failure**

The Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital is participating in a \$37 million national study that could determine definitively whether a tailored exercise program can help heart failure patients live longer. The randomized study, "Heart Failure: A Controlled Trial Investigating Outcomes of Exercise Training (HF-ACTION)," is sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and involves 3000 patients at more than 70 sites.

Co-investigators of the study at Baylor are Jenny Adams, PhD, research associate, and Shelley Hall, MD, medical director of BUMC's congestive heart failure clinic. "Baylor met the rigorous site selection criteria because of its extensive research capabilities along with having a designated heart failure clinic and quality cardiac rehabilitation program," said Dr. Adams. Dr. Hall added: "We know from our experience that exercise programs improve the cardiovascular performance of patients with heart failure and decrease the likelihood of ER visits and hospitalizations. However, if we can prove exercise is an effective treatment for heart failure, the collected data will be shown to Medicare with the goal of heart failure becoming a covered diagnosis for cardiac rehabilitation."

■ **Baylor Grapevine announces second cardiac catheterization laboratory**

To accommodate the growth in Grapevine and surrounding areas, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine opened a second cardiac catheterization laboratory. The new laboratory offers electrophysiology studies, implantation of heart defibrillators and pacemakers, bi-ventricular pacing for patients with congestive heart failure, and radiofrequency ablation to destroy abnormal areas that cause arrhythmia. The laboratory also features three-dimensional imaging, which allows for increased accuracy in treating heart rhythm disturbances. Other expansion projects at Baylor Grapevine include a 24-bed telemetry monitoring unit, a sleep lab and epilepsy monitoring unit, an electrophysiology suite, the Baylor Spine Center, and the upcoming opening of the Baylor Medical Plaza at Keller.

■ **Baylor Medical Center at Garland introduces breast cancer support group**

In January 2006, Baylor Medical Center at Garland introduced a breast cancer survivor support group, a free, 6-week program that meets on Tuesday evenings. The group is facilitated by Kimberly McMillin, MD, a family medicine physician on the medical staff of Baylor Garland.

Meetings feature keynote speakers who discuss a variety of topics, from how to communicate with your treatment team to information about diet, exercise, and nutrition. This breast cancer group is the second cancer support group at Baylor Garland. The Cancer Dialogue Support Group is designed to help patients and their families and friends better understand and learn to live with cancer.

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

UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

Healthcare Spotlight 7: Producing Stellar Patient Outcomes,

April 29, 2006, at Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas

For more information, call 214-820-2317.

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

John Connolly, PhD, April 18, 2006

Fabian E. Pollo, PhD, May 16, 2006

Mark W. Millard, MD, June 20, 2006

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



Dr. Roberts and the staff of the A. Webb Roberts Center for Continuing Medical Education thank physicians for responding to the annual CME survey. Among the respondents, Richard J. Joseph, MD, won the drawing for dinner at York Street. We value your input as we continue to strive for excellence in providing quality education.

RECENT GRANTS

• **Altered CD8+ T cell compartment in SLE patients**

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchereau, PhD

Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

Total funding: \$1,906,250

Award period: March 1, 2006, to February 28, 2011

• **New predictors of SLE disease activity**

Principal investigator: Virginia Pascual, MD

Sponsor: Alliance for Lupus Research

Total funding: \$500,000

Award period: March 1, 2006, to February 28, 2008

• **Development of method to decrease common cause of childhood blindness**

Principal investigator: Cody Arnold, MD

Sponsor: Nellcor Puritan Bennett Incorporated

Total funding: \$20,000

Award period: November 7, 2005, to November 6, 2007

• **Overweight children: impact on BMI of a behavioral intervention provided by a family physician**

Sponsor: American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

Principal investigator: Miriam Cusicanqui-Monrroy, MD

Total funding: \$1886

Award period: February 1, 2006, to June 16, 2006