

## ■ Baylor facilities nationally recognized

For the 14th consecutive year, Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas (BUMC) has been ranked among the nation's top hospitals in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2006 "America's Best Hospitals" guide. BUMC ranked among the 50 top hospitals in each of the following seven specialties: digestive disorders (ranked 20), endocrinology (ranked 40), gynecology (ranked 37), heart and heart surgery (ranked 44), kidney disease (ranked 34), neurology and neurosurgery (ranked 42), and orthopaedics (ranked 22). Additionally, Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation (BIR) ranked 20th among the nation's top rehabilitation facilities.

## ■ BHCS tops best care consumer survey

Baylor Health Care System (BHCS) ranks highest among all hospital systems in the Dallas–Fort Worth area for best overall quality of care, according to a July 2006 study conducted by Rincon and Associates, a Dallas-based market research company. In addition to identifying the system as having the best overall quality of care in the region, consumers regard Baylor hospitals as having the best quality of cancer treatment and cardiac care. "The HealthWatch report is gratifying because it validates what our own survey results show: Baylor is the most highly regarded hospital system in the Dallas–Fort Worth area," said Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer of BHCS. "We will continue to advance our patient care and research efforts to earn the trust and respect of the communities we serve throughout North Texas and beyond."

## ■ BHCS excels in national campaign to save 100,000 lives

Focusing on improving care in 6 targeted areas, BHCS hospitals averaged more than a 12% reduction in inpatient risk-adjusted mortality during the 100,000 Lives Campaign, exceeding the 5% mortality reduction needed nationally to achieve the overall goal of saving 100,000 lives across the USA.

BHCS was among the first 10 health care systems to commit its hospitals to the 6 initiatives of the Saving 100,000 Lives Campaign, launched by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in December 2004. The campaign challenged hospitals to reduce the rate of inpatient deaths from December 2004 to June 14,

2006, by implementing specific components of evidence-based care.

"Baylor's success in this first nationwide campaign underscores our commitment to quality patient care," said Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer of BHCS. Through the BHCS Best Care Committee, Baylor's acute care hospitals in Dallas, Fort Worth, Grapevine, Irving, Garland, Plano, and Waxahachie implemented the following clinical care improvement processes:

- Activate a rapid response team at the first sign that a patient's condition is worsening and may lead to a more serious medical emergency
- Prevent patients from dying of heart attacks by delivering evidence-based care, including appropriate administration of aspirin to prevent blood clots and beta-blockers to prevent further heart attacks
- Prevent medication errors to ensure that accurate and continually updated lists of patients' medications are referenced during the hospital stay, especially at transition points
- Prevent patients who are receiving medicines and fluids through central lines from developing infections by following five steps, including proper hand washing and cleaning the patient's skin with chlorhexidine
- Prevent patients undergoing surgery from developing infections by following a series of steps, including the timely administration of antibiotics
- Prevent patients on ventilators from developing pneumonia by following four steps, including raising the head of the patient's bed between 30° and 40° to prevent aspiration pneumonia

"Baylor Health Care System is committed to achieving quality care for its patients through providing care that is safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered at reasonable cost, and, thereby continually inspiring patient trust and confidence," said David Ballard, MD, PhD, chief quality officer for BHCS.

Baylor's commitment to health care quality is also supported by an extensive quality of care research program led by Dr. Ballard, who also chairs the Health Care Quality and Effectiveness Research Study Section of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Under the leadership of Dr. Ballard and Donald Kennerly, MD, PhD, chief patient safety

officer for BHCS, Baylor is the only Texas health care system selected by AHRQ to participate in its High Reliability Organization Network, a group of innovative health care systems working with AHRQ to speed national efforts to make health care safer and better.

## ■ Cancer program at BUMC receives approval with commendation

The cancer program at BUMC has received approval with commendation from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Approval by the ACS is given only to facilities that have voluntarily committed to providing quality cancer care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and performance review. Only one in four hospitals that treat cancer patients receives this special approval, according to the Commission on Cancer.

"We are dedicated to improving survival rates and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education, and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care," said Marvin J. Stone, MD, chief of oncology at BUMC and director of the Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center. "Approval with commendation by the Commission on Cancer recognizes this dedication."

In May 2006, the Baylor Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center celebrated 30 years of service as an integral part of BUMC.

## ■ Center for Lupus Research established at Baylor with \$6.2 million grant

Baylor Institute for Immunology Research (BIIR) will create a Center for Lupus Research with a \$6.2 million grant from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. The grant is one of the Centers for Research Translation awards. The funding will support projects to characterize the role of neutrophils and monocytes in lupus pathogenesis, to identify the factors responsible for unabated dendritic cell differentiation in lupus, and to determine the checkpoints where mature B cells break tolerance against self. This center will be led by Virginia Pascual, MD, the director of the grant, and Jacques Banchereau, PhD, the director of BIIR and associate director of the grant.

The funding supports researchers at BIIR as well as coinvestigators at Rockefeller University, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, and Dynavax Technologies.

## ACCOLADES & APPOINTMENTS

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians named **Erica Swegler, MD**, medical director of Baylor Grapevine's Department of Family Medicine, Texas Family Physician of the Year. The award was given during the Texas Academy of Family Physicians' 57th Annual Session and Scientific Assembly in Frisco, Texas, on June 21, 2006.

*Modern Healthcare* magazine has listed BHCS President and Chief Executive Officer **Joel Allison** number 22 on its annual list of most influential people in health care. Allison is the highest-ranking health care professional from Texas that made the list.

**Scott Peek** was named president of Baylor Specialty Health Centers. In addition to overseeing Baylor Specialty Hospital in Dallas and its satellite locations in Garland and Irving, Peek will oversee Our Children's House at Baylor and its seven outpatient centers.

"This was an extremely competitive grant," explained Dr. Pascual. "There were around 40 applications by top institutions from around the country, and not many of them were funded. The Center for Research Translation funding mechanism could have been awarded for research on any autoimmune disease, and we are fortunate that lupus was selected." Other lupus projects at BHIR are supported by the Alliance for Lupus Research and the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

### ■ Scientists at BHIR receive \$3 million grant to create cancer vaccines

BHIR has been awarded a 3-year, \$3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to develop dendritic cell vaccines against melanoma. The research has three projects: one is led by Jacques Banchemereau, PhD, director of BHIR, who also serves as the overall principal investigator; the other two projects are led by Karolina Palucka, MD, PhD, the Michael A. E. Ramsay Chair for Cancer Immunology Research, and Joseph Fay, MD, director of the Division of Immunologic Therapy for Cancer.

To support the manufacturing of the vaccine, BHCS recently completed construction and equipped a \$2.4 million, 2200-square-foot

customized cell-processing and vaccine development facility, which complies with the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) current Good Manufacturing Practices and is located at BHIR.

### ■ All Saints Women's Hospital gets a \$1 million boost

Fort Worth philanthropists Don and Gloria Siratt have donated \$1 million to the All Saints Health Foundation, earmarking their gift towards the fourth floor of the Andrews Women's Hospital, which will be named in their honor. The fourth floor will be one of two postpartum floors consisting of 32 beds and 32 well-nursery beds. Each postpartum room will have a full-size Murphy bed for use by the patient's family and a separate area for family to relax, as well as wireless capabilities. The new \$75 million, 170,000-square-foot women's hospital is scheduled for completion in 2008.

### ■ Baylor All Saints announces opening of transplant unit

Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth opened a new 27-bed inpatient transplant unit to accommodate acutely ill patients who need to remain in the hospital for a significant amount of time while waiting for or recovering from transplant surgery. The unit, located on the eighth floor of the Martin Tower, includes an education center, private consultation rooms, a support group meeting room, and family waiting areas. "The transplant team at Baylor All Saints is absolutely thrilled to be able to open this new, advanced transplant inpatient unit. This wonderful addition to our Fort Worth community is a

tribute to the hard work and dedication of our nursing staff," said Marlon Levy, MD, surgical director of the Baylor All Saints Medical Center transplant program. "We are deeply grateful for the support of our philanthropic community and for the trust our patients place in the transplant program at Baylor All Saints." Since the inception of the All Saints transplant program in 2002, 292 transplants have been performed. Baylor All Saints is the only hospital in Tarrant County to perform liver and pancreas transplants.

### ■ BUMC offers new knee replacement implant specifically designed for women

BUMC is now offering the Gender Solutions High-Flex Knee, from Zimmer, Inc.—the first knee replacement implant designed specifically to fit a woman's anatomy. The new implant design received FDA approval in May 2006. "While most women are very satisfied with traditional knee replacements, there is still room for improvement," said Jay Mabrey, MD, chief of orthopaedic surgery at BUMC. "Previous knee replacement designs were based upon a combination of measurements from both male and female knees." Researchers have determined that a woman's knee has a narrower shape, a thinner shape, and more natural tracking than a man's knee.

### ■ BUMC offers new alternative to hip replacements

BUMC now offers candidates for hip replacement surgery another option. Known as the Birmingham Hip Resurfacing System, the new

## UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

### 10th Annual Tyler Breast Cancer Conference 2007,

February 10, 2007, at Harvey Convention Center, Tyler, Texas

For more information, call 214-820-2317.

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

**Priscilla A. Hollander, MD, PhD:** October 17, 2006

**Robert M. Mayberry, PhD:** November 21, 2006

**Cole A. Giller, MD, PhD:** December 19, 2006

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

procedure was previously offered only outside the USA. It is the first FDA-approved total hip resurfacing technique and implant. Currently, two orthopaedic surgeons on the medical staff at BUMC—Kurt Rathjen, MD, and Richard Schubert, MD—are the only surgeons in North Texas trained to perform the Birmingham Hip procedure.

Similar to a tooth cap, hip resurfacing is performed by shaving and capping a few centimeters of bone within the joint rather than replacing the entire hip joint, as in a total hip replacement. This bone-conserving approach preserves more of the patient's natural bone structure and stability by covering the joint's surfaces with an all-metal implant. The approach reduces postoperative risks such as joint dislocation and inaccurate leg length—two of the leading causes of implant failure after total hip replacements.

"This procedure is intended for younger, active patients who live a nonsedentary lifestyle who may be suffering from hip pain due to osteoarthritis, dysplasia, or avascular necrosis," said Dr. Rathjen. After undergoing hip resurfacing, most patients should be able to return to their normal physical activities after the first year. "Hip resurfacing allows the patient to return to a higher level of activity than with traditional total hip replacements," added Dr. Schubert.

#### ■ Hereditary cancer risk program at BUMC serves 1000th patient

The hereditary cancer risk program at the W. H. and Peggy Smith Baylor Sammons Breast Center at BUMC recently served its 1000th patient. The program ranks as one of the 10 most experienced cancer risk programs out of approximately 250 in the USA, according to Myriad Genetic Laboratory, the company that performs the genetic testing for the hereditary cancer risk program. Joanne Blum, MD, PhD, oncologist at BUMC, has been the medical director of the program since its opening in 1998, and Becky Althaus, RN, PhD, CGC, genetic counselor, has also been with the program from the start.

Like many other top cancer risk programs, the hereditary cancer risk program at BUMC focuses on research and provides patient-centered care. "We are dedicated to empowering women to understand their true risk of cancer so they and their doctors can make the best choices for preventive medical care," said Dr. Blum.

### RECENT GRANTS

- **Effective health care: patient safety and therapeutic effectiveness**

Principal investigator: David Ballard, MD  
Sponsor: Research Triangle Institute/ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
Funding: \$18,195  
Award period: February 8, 2006, to December 31, 2006

- **Improving the efficacy of dendritic cell vaccines**

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchemereau, PhD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$999,999  
Award period: June 1, 2006, to May 31, 2007

- **Functional outcomes in cardiovascular patients undergoing surgical hip fracture repair**

Principal investigator: David Heck, MD  
Sponsor: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Funding: \$237,900  
Award period: June 1, 2006, to April 30, 2007

- **Professional services contract**

Principal investigator: Lawrence Sweetman, MD  
Sponsor: Texas Department of State Health Services  
Funding: \$48,000  
Award period: July 1, 2006, to August 31, 2007

- **Pfizer Foundation southern HIV/AIDS prevention initiative program evaluation**

Principal investigator: Robert Mayberry, PhD, MPH  
Sponsor: Moorehouse School of Medicine/The Pfizer Foundation  
Funding: \$8887  
Award period: January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2007

- **Use of microarrays to understand systemic arthritis**

Principal investigator: Virginia Pascual, MD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$317,484  
Award period: September 1, 2006, to August 31, 2007

- **Center for Lupus Research**

Principal investigator: Virginia Pascual, MD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$1,259,044  
Award period: August 21, 2006, to July 31, 2007

- **A pull-push strategy for lymphoma immunotherapy**

Principal investigator: Wenru Song, MD, PhD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$128,547  
Award period: August 9, 2006, to May 31, 2007

#### ■ Baylor All Saints and Baylor Medical Center at Southwest Fort Worth offer VitalStim Therapy

Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth and Baylor Medical Center at Southwest Fort Worth are generating positive outcomes for patients who have dysphagia by using a treatment called VitalStim therapy. VitalStim strengthens and retrains the muscles in the throat and neck to swallow again through an FDA-approved neuromuscular electric stimulation technique.

"VitalStim is another tool we have to help patients reach the next level in their ability to swallow," says Gratia Childers, senior speech-language pathologist, Baylor Medical Center

at Southwest Fort Worth. "This is a therapy for patients who have swallowing problems currently or have not been successful with traditional swallowing methods using swallowing exercises, different postures, and changes in food textures."

During VitalStim therapy, a certified therapist places electrodes on the patient's neck in a process similar to an electrocardiogram. A carefully calibrated electric current stimulates the motor nerves in the throat area.

#### ■ BIR offers "stair-climbing" wheelchair

For most people confined to wheelchairs, elevators and ramps are essential to daily travel.

Everyday tasks such as reaching a high shelf, grocery shopping, or even talking to people face to face is sometimes impossible or requires assistance. But with the new Independence iBOT 4000 Mobility System, now offered to patients with mobility impairments at BIR, life in a wheelchair may become a little easier. The iBOT 4000 provides the user with five operating functions: four-wheel, balance, stair, standard, and remote. These functions allow the user to climb stairs or curbs, raise the mobility system to the eye level of someone who is standing, lower it to sit comfortably under a desk or table, and even travel over uneven terrain such as sand, grass, or gravel.

"This wheelchair is like nothing we've seen before," said Tricia Henley, PT, physical therapist and coordinator of the wheelchair clinic at BIR. "Not only can it perform amazing tasks, but the best part is that it gives the user a better sense of independence."

#### ■ Chairmen named for boards of trustees

New chairmen began their 2-year terms on BHCS's and BUMC's board of trustees on July 1, 2006.

**Judge Ed Kinkeade**, the chairman of the BHCS board, has served on that board since July 1998. He is a US district judge for the Northern District of Texas. He also teaches legal ethics as an adjunct professor of law at Texas Wesleyan University and has coauthored two law books, *Kinkeade & McCollochs Texas Penal Code Annotated* and *A Practical Guide to Texas Evidence: Objections, Responses, Rules, and Practice Commentary*. He commits much of his time to the community.

**Michael L. Graham**, who chairs the BUMC board, served as a partner in Baker & Botts before starting his own estate-planning practice,

### PHILANTHROPY NOTES

#### ■ Mullen gives \$750,000 to BUMC emergency department

Mike Mullen, Dallas philanthropist and chief executive officer of Mike Mullen Energy Equipment Resource Inc., has pledged \$750,000 to BUMC's emergency department expansion project. This major gift initiated the philanthropic component of this project.

Early this year, Mullen was faced with a medical crisis involving his sons. As a former patient, he was already familiar with Baylor's reputation for quality patient care. When it came time to make an emergency decision, there was no question where he would turn.

What he did not know at the time was the tremendous need for the expansion of BUMC's emergency department, along with the hospital's plans to address that need. Baylor is tripling the square footage of its emergency department and more than doubling its number of treatment rooms. With the number of emergency patients rising, the renovations are intended to shorten patients' waiting and treatment time.

Mullen made his gift in honor of the exceptional "around-the-clock" care provided to his sons by BUMC nurses and physicians and to acknowledge the long relationship he has had with BHCS. To acknowledge his generosity, a conference room and lounge area will be named the Mullen Family Conference Center.

Mullen is no stranger to Baylor. For the past 8 years, his donations have helped fund the Baylor School for Children, the Reba Perry Powell Fellowship, Baylor's gastroenterology laboratory, and the Lisa Landry Childress Foundation, which funds education on organ and tissue donations.

Since Mullen's gift, several Dallas foundations have followed suit with significant contributions to Baylor's emergency department expansion project. Total philanthropic giving so far has totaled \$5.4 million. Baylor's cost for this project is \$53 million. The new emergency department is scheduled to open in winter 2007.

the Graham Law Firm, PC, based in Highland Park. He is the past chairperson of the Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law section of the State Bar of Texas; a fellow and past regent of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel; past president of the Texas Academy of Probate and Trust Lawyers; and a fellow of the International Academy of Estate and Trust Lawyers.

Both chairmen received both their undergraduate and law degrees from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

#### ■ Olympic Gold Medalist Peggy Fleming to speak at Baylor's Celebrating Women Luncheon

The BHCS Foundation announced that Peggy Fleming, Olympic gold medalist and breast cancer survivor, will serve as the keynote speaker for the seventh annual Celebrating Women Luncheon. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 24, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, and proceeds benefit BHCS's fight against breast cancer through research, early detection, and treatment. For more information on Celebrating Women, contact the Foundation at 214-820-3136.