

## ■ The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano opens

On January 22, 2007, The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano opened as the Dallas–Fort Worth area's first and only freestanding, full-service hospital dedicated to heart and vascular care (Figure). During its first day of operation, physicians performed 10 cardiac procedures.

"As a heart hospital, all of our focus is on providing a full continuum of care for heart and vascular disease in a setting that provides five-star service," said Mark Valentine, president of The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano. With in-suite service dining, concierge services, oversized guest suites, and floor-to-ceiling windows plus a wireless environment, the newly constructed facility has the features of a five-star resort.



Figure. The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano, which opened in January 2007.

### ACCOLADES

The International Society for Quality in Health Care has appointed Baylor Health Care System (BHCS) Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer **David Ballard, MD, PhD**, a member of the editorial committee for the *International Journal for Quality in Health Care*. The 2-year appointment runs through December 2008.

**Dr. Adrian Flatt**, chairman emeritus of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC), received an honorary fellowship from the British Orthopedic Association. He was presented a gold medal for the honor at the association's annual meeting in Glasgow, Scotland. Although born in England, Dr. Flatt has spent most of his career in the USA.

**J. Timothy Norwood, MD**, an obstetrician and gynecologist on the medical staff of BUMC, is president of the Dallas County Medical Society for 2007.

**Dr. Jonathan Whitfield**, a neonatologist on the medical staff at BUMC and previous chair of BUMC's Department of Pediatrics, completed his fellowship in integrative medicine from the University of Arizona in December 2006. The program, which includes 1000 hours of instruction, covers the art of medicine, philosophy of medicine, medicine and culture, mind-body interactions, nutrition, botanicals, physical activity, spirituality, leadership, and legal issues.

The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano was created through a partnership between Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano and 86 cardiovascular physicians and surgeons practicing in North Texas. Physicians on the hospital's medical staff include nationally recognized cardiologists and surgeons. Centrally situated in the heart of Collin County at 1100 Allied Drive, the hospital shares a medical campus with Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano. The 185,000-square-foot Heart Hospital cost \$100 million.

"The communities in this region will have access in one location to quality cardiovascular physicians who can take care of their cardiovascular needs," said Jeff Gladden, MD, interventional cardiologist on the medical staff and cofounder of The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano.

The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano provides a full range of advanced inpatient and outpatient cardiovascular services:

- Cardiovascular outpatient, interventional, and surgical services
- Noninvasive cardiovascular testing
- Cardiac catheterization
- Open heart surgery
- Peripheral angiography
- Cardiac and vascular interventions
- Electrophysiology testing
- Atrial fibrillation services
- Heart failure services
- Advanced cardiac and vascular ultrasound
- Advanced imaging technology
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Arrhythmia management and treatment
- Vascular surgery
- Wellness and prevention services

Beyond advanced technology, including a 64-slice computed tomography scanner, The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano has advanced information technology systems, providing a full electronic medical record. All medical information—from entry to discharge—is entered electronically into the patient's record.

The hospital's unique design enhances care for patients, who—in keeping with the hospital's commitment to hotel-like services—are called guests. The facility features a bow-tie-shaped design that keeps decentralized nurses' stations near the guests' suites and uses the curved shape of the hallways to allow caregivers to have a direct sight line to every guest suite.

Unlike a typical hospital, where patients are wheeled from room to room for testing and procedures, The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano's design allows guests to stay in their suite for most services. Guests will be admitted, will recover, and will be discharged from the same suite. Each suite easily converts into an intensive care unit environment if the guest's condition should warrant such a change.

The hospital's all-private guest suites are designed with wood laminate floors, comfortable furniture, and a separate living area for family members wishing to stay overnight, similar to a hotel suite. Creating suites that accommodate family members was more than just a convenience; it was meant to help in the guest's recovery. "We are dedicated to providing holistic care that recognizes the importance of family support," said Valentine. "Having families close by enhances the healing process."

Every suite has a flat-screen TV and a personal safe. In addition, room service dining is

available to all guests as an online, individualized menu that allows guests and family members to order from the comfort of their suite. If any dietary restrictions exist, the menu recognizes them. Hospital amenities include free valet parking, concierge services, and a coffee bar.

### ■ **Baylor Medical Center at Irving uses magnets to treat heart disorders**

The use of 2-ton magnets and flexible plastic catheters tipped with a small magnet has remarkably changed the way physicians treat cardiac arrhythmias. Electrophysiologists on staff at Baylor Medical Center at Irving use the magnets to lead catheters and wires to precise locations in the heart, where they ablate or cauterize the bit of tissue causing the irregular heartbeat. Baylor Irving is the first facility in the Dallas–Fort Worth area and among the first of 100 hospitals in the USA to implement the stereotaxis technology.

Using the magnets with a 3-D mapping system, electrophysiologists can record where they've been and return to any position they've visited as they work from a control room adjacent to the catheterization lab. The clinicians' surgical tools are toggle switches, foot pedals, and a computer that control the movement of catheters and wires within the patient's cardiovascular system. The magnetic field positions and holds the catheter at one spot, essentially making this a "hands-off" procedure. The magnet-tipped catheter can be moved in 1-millimeter increments.

"Because the heart is always beating, it's hard to move a catheter without bounce," explained Scott Williams, manager of the cardiac catheterization laboratory at Baylor Medical Center at Irving. "You want to be very precise—you need to get to a certain location and stay there." The technology offers a faster way to deliver the therapy, so the time a patient spends in the procedure is shortened.

People with chronic arrhythmias that were previously untreated by ablation are the primary beneficiaries of this new technology. "Many times when chronic arrhythmia cannot be treated, people have to be on lifelong antiarrhythmic and anticoagulation medicine and contend with the side effects," said Michael Rothkopf, MD, a cardiologist on the medical staff at Baylor Irving. "Successful treatment often allows people to remain symptom-free without medication." Other people who can benefit from the new stereotaxis

## **RECENT GRANTS**

- **"Center for Investigating Viral Immunity and Antagonism"**

Principal investigator: John Connolly, PhD  
Sponsor: Mt. Sinai/National Institutes of Health

Funding: \$234,040

Award period: September 1, 2006, to August 31, 2007

- **"Hemodynamic Imaging for Brain Tumor Prognosis"**

Principal investigator: Cole Giller, MD, PhD  
Sponsor: University of Texas at Arlington/  
National Institutes of Health

Funding: \$188,696

Award period: November 1, 2006, to October 31, 2007

- **"Developing a Targeted Injury Detection System"**

Principal investigator: Donald Kennerly, MD, PhD

Sponsor: Research Triangle Institute/  
National Institutes of Health

Funding: \$89,999

Award period: September 26, 2006, to September 30, 2007

- **"Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation Spinal Cord Injury Peer Mentor Program"**

Principal investigator: Leslie Cunningham, OTR

Sponsor: Christopher Reeve Foundation  
Funding: \$13,410

Award period: February 1, 2007, to January 31, 2008

- **"Assess the Effects of Medication Therapy Management in Improving Drug Safety and Effectiveness in Medicare"**

Principal investigator: Andrew Masica, MD  
Sponsor: Research Triangle Institute International

Funding: \$258,766

Award period: February 8, 2007, to September 15, 2008

- **"JC Virus and Tumor Formation in the Human Colon"**

Principal investigator: C. Richard Boland, MD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

Funding: \$214,439

Award period: March 1, 2007, to February 28, 2008

technology include those with electrophysiology disorders, including rapid or slow heart rate; those with cardiac arrhythmias, including tachycardia and atrial fibrillation; and those receiving defibrillators or cardiac resynchronization devices. People who need angioplasty or cardiac stents also may benefit from the new technology, which can help cardiologists reach blockages in blood vessels that were previously unreachable.

### ■ **Our Children's House at Baylor expands, opens pediatric outpatient center in Rockwall**

Responding to a growing need for comprehensive services for children with special health care needs, Our Children's House at Baylor (OCH) opened a new wing in January 2007. The expansion doubles the hospital's size from the original 38 beds, adding 20 inpatient beds and 12 day beds to the facility. Additional therapy space, a clinic, and a pediatric outpatient surgery facility were included in the expansion. The \$14.6

million project was built through a partnership between BHCS and generous donors who provided \$5 million in philanthropic support.

"At OCH, we've done our best to create an environment of healing that works hand-in-hand with the care and treatment our patients receive," said Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer, BHCS. "Our patients will receive quality clinical care in an inspiring environment. The children will be able to look from their beds and see images of flight that will let their active imaginations wander, instead of the white walls seen in many hospitals."

In addition, OCH expanded its outpatient services in the Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex with the opening of a pediatric outpatient therapy clinic in Rockwall. This eighth OCH outpatient center is 3200 square feet and has nine individual treatment spaces and a large therapy gym. It is located at 2455 Ridge Road, Suite 255.

Like its sister sites, OCH Rockwall serves children with a variety of special needs and offers physical therapy, occupational therapy, and

speech therapy. In addition, it offers feeding therapy and equipment assessments for children with wheelchairs and other assistive devices.

"OCH Rockwall provides convenient, close-to-home care for children with special needs and disabilities by experienced therapists who specialize in pediatrics," said Scott Peek, president, Baylor Specialty Health Centers. "In addition to providing quality patient care, bringing these services closer to the families that need them is our number one priority."

### ■ Wise Regional Health System and Baylor Health Care System announce affiliation

On February 1, 2007, Wise Regional Health System and BHCS entered into a formal affiliation agreement, for an initial term of 5 years. This agreement will maximize the delivery of health care in Wise County yet allow both organizations to maintain their independence and control. The agreement encompasses four areas:

- *Continuing education.* Wise Regional will be able to participate in education programs offered by BHCS for physicians, nurses, and other clinical personnel.
- *Consulting.* Wise Regional will have access to the counsel of senior BHCS managers

## UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

- **Controversies Regarding Care of the Tiny Baby**, April 6, 2007, at BUMC
- **Third Annual Hepatology Roundup**, April 28, 2007, at Gilley's 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:

- **Joseph A. Kuhn, MD**, April 17, 2007
- **C. Richard Boland, MD**, May 15, 2007
- **Joseph W. Fay, MD**, June 19, 2007

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

on matters such as quality improvement and strategic planning.

- *Physician recruiting.* Wise County is growing, and new physicians are constantly needed to provide excellent services. This agreement enables Wise Regional to work with BHCS to meet this challenge.
- *Group purchasing.* The agreement allows Wise Regional to obtain the sponsorship of BHCS and thereby access the cost-saving purchasing power of VHA Texas.

"This agreement formalizes years of informal cooperation and mutual support. The welfare of Wise County residents has long been an important interest of leaders of Baylor Health Care System. Coupled with the opening of the new Wise Regional Health System facility in Decatur, this affiliation assures that 21st-century health care will be a reality for years to come in Wise County," said Michael Denis, vice president of planning and development, Wise Regional Health System.

## PHILANTHROPY NOTES

### ■ Dr. and Mrs. Riggs give \$1 million to support Baylor emergency department expansion

BHCS Foundation Board Chairman Leonard M. Riggs, Jr., MD, and his wife, Peggy, have donated \$1 million toward the expansion of the emergency department at BUMC. The project will triple the size of the emergency department and more than double BUMC's capacity to treat patients requiring urgent and trauma care.

"I know firsthand what Baylor does for its patients. It is so important to spread awareness of its mission. Baylor has done so much for the community, and I feel it is important to give back," said Dr. Riggs.

The budget for this massive overhaul of the emergency department is \$53 million. BHCS Foundation has committed \$10 million to the project. Since fundraising began in January 2006, more than \$8 million has been raised.

Construction on the emergency department is expected to be completed in January 2008.

### ■ Mr. and Mrs. Hutchison top \$1.2 million to metabolic disease institute

The BHCS Foundation is pleased to report a generous gift of more than \$180,000 by Mr. and Mrs. William L. Hutchison. The money will be directed to the Kimberly H. Courtwright and Joseph W. Summers Institute of Metabolic Disease. This latest gift brings their cumulative giving to BHCS to well over \$1.2 million.

In 1987, the Hutchisons recognized the lack of a single setting in America for diagnosis and treatment of metabolic disease. They established the institute as a tribute to their grandchildren. The institute is dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of children and adults affected by inherited body chemistry problems that interfere with the ability to produce energy from protein, fats, and carbohydrates

in the diet. The Hutchisons have funded the Courtwright Institute for the past 20 years.

### ■ Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie receives \$100,000 gift from Dr. Gerard Noteboom

Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie recently received a \$100,000 donation from Gerard Noteboom, MD, a longtime resident of Sardis, Texas, and retired pathologist formerly on the medical staff at Baylor Waxahachie. The donation will fund the purchase of a digital echocardiogram machine and a teaching microscope for the hospital's laboratory.

"We are honored that Dr. Noteboom has continued to support Baylor Waxahachie, and we are greatly appreciative of his generosity," said Jay Fox, president, Baylor Waxahachie. "This new equipment will enhance our medical staff's ability to provide quality and efficient care to our patients."