

## ■ Baylor transplant programs are third in the country to hit milestone

On October 18, 2007, the Baylor Regional Transplant Institute—with programs at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas (BUMC) and Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth—performed its 3000th adult liver transplant, the nation's third such program to reach this milestone.

Liver transplantation has advanced dramatically since surgeons on the medical staff at BUMC performed their first liver transplant surgery in April 1985. At that time, the 1-year survival rate for patients was 22%. Today, the 5-year survival rate reported by the United Network for Organ Sharing is 87%, and Baylor has a 92% 5-year survival rate. Göran Klintmalm, MD, PhD, chairman of the Baylor Transplant Institute, said, "Many of our patients are now approaching 10-, 15-, and even 20-year survival milestones, with an excellent quality of life."

Dr. Klintmalm, who is the current president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, said knowledge is gained with every case performed, making 3000 transplants of any organ a significant accomplishment for any one of the nation's 120 programs.

## ■ Baylor receives grants for quality initiatives

Baylor Health Care System (BHCS) recently received two grants for health care improvement research.

The first was a \$150,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute to research patient-centered communication in cancer care. Researchers will develop ways to characterize and measure six functions of patient-centered communication: fostering healing relationships, exchanging information, responding to patients' emotions, managing uncertainty, making decisions, and enabling patient self-management. In collaboration with the Agency for Healthcare

Now in its eighth year, Celebrating Women raised a record \$3.5 million for breast cancer research, community outreach, and expanded technology for early detection and treatment throughout BHCS.

The audience was treated to a moving speech by world-renowned actress Lynn Redgrave; the presentation of the Lindalyn Bennett Adams Award to Tucean Webb and Tucean Franks; and the presentation of the Circle of Care Award to the Julie and Jim Turner family and Lynn Redgrave for their commitment and dedication to the fight against breast cancer.

## ■ Baron Cass family gift names women's imaging centers

At the Foundation's annual Celebrating Women Luncheon, a major gift was announced: both Dallas women's imaging centers will be named in honor of Darlene G. Cass, community leader and 5-year breast cancer survivor. The gift was made by Darlene's husband, Baron Cass, and their three children to recognize Darlene's dedication to breast cancer awareness, prevention, and treatment and her contributions to the community and her family.

## ACCOLADES AND APPOINTMENTS

**Paul Convery, MD**, chief medical officer at BHCS, was named chair for the Provider Organizations Council of the National Quality Forum. His responsibilities include leadership education and recognition, as well as obtaining member feedback on measures and practices endorsed by the forum.

**Christine Roberts, RN**, a nurse on the progressive care unit at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine, won *NurseWeek's* South Central Region Nursing Excellence Award in the mentoring category. She will be featured on the cover of the magazine along with other winners.

**Melinda Gregory, RN**, a 10-year veteran of Baylor Medical Center at Garland, received the Helen Henry Award at the Clinical Practice Model Resource Center's international conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**William Stephen Boyd** was named senior vice president and general counsel of BHCS. Boyd served as managing partner for the Texas offices of Hunton & Williams for the past 3 years and as head of litigation for the past 7 years. He has 26 years of experience representing various regulated industries in federal and state courts as well as administrative venues and was recently named a Texas Super Lawyer in *Super Lawyer* magazine.

Research and Quality and the National Cancer Institute, BHCS will organize a symposium of experts to share research findings. Eric Nadler, MD, MPP, medical oncologist and cochair of thoracic oncology research at Texas Oncology, PA, will provide clinical leadership for the project, in collaboration with David Ballard, MD, PhD, chief quality officer at BHCS, and Neil Fleming, PhD, vice president of health care research at BHCS.

In addition, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality awarded BHCS \$200,000 to study adverse event-directed risk analysis in ambulatory primary care. Through a review of 6000 patient charts, researchers will measure the frequency and type of adverse events that occur in ambulatory primary care practice.

## PHILANTHROPY NOTES

### ■ BHCS Foundation raises more than \$11 million for emergency department

The BHCS Foundation announced that it has raised more than \$11 million to help fund the expansion of the BUMC emergency department.

The campaign kicked off in January 2006 with a \$750,000 grant from the Hoblitzelle Foundation. The Bank of America Charitable Foundation capped the campaign with a \$500,000 grant, making it the largest corporate donor to the project.

Due to the generosity of Dr. Leonard Riggs and his wife, Peggy, as well as their many friends, the new facility will be named the Riggs Emergency Department. The grand opening is scheduled for January 15, 2008.

### ■ Celebrating Women raises record \$3.5 million for breast cancer research, technology

The BHCS Foundation held its 2007 Celebrating Women Luncheon on October 16, 2007, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. More than 1300 guests attended.

Based on that information, they will develop strategies to prevent adverse events in primary care practices within the HealthTexas Provider Network. Donald Kennerly, MD, vice president of patient safety at BHCS, is the study's principal investigator.

### ■ **Quality Improvement Summit showcases outstanding BHCS efforts**

BHCS created a summit to reward and recognize top performers throughout the system who demonstrate a sustainable improvement in a process or outcome that aligns with and supports the goals of BHCS.

Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie took top honors for its system to identify and treat patients at high risk of developing venous thromboembolic events (VTE), or blood clots, during their hospital stay. "The first step in preventing blood clots is to identify those patients at risk for developing them," said Donna Drain, director of pharmacy and team leader of the VTE initiative at Baylor Waxahachie. "Through our patient screening and evidence-based intervention, we have significantly reduced the rate of patient readmissions due to VTE, which tells us that this method is reliable in preventing blood clots in our patients." Jay Fox, president of Baylor Waxahachie, added: "Because of the success and reliability of Baylor Waxahachie's VTE initiative, BHCS is recommending all hospitals within the Baylor system adopt similar assessment tools for their patients."

Two projects from Baylor Medical Center at Garland received second-place awards. The first effort, led by Lyn Fair, improved the communication between physicians, medical record coders, and patient care coordinators in accurately documenting the true severity of patients' illnesses. The second, led by Kelli Oldham, RN, improved the process for controlling patient pain through medications or alternative therapies.

"The award program is in keeping with Baylor's goal of recognizing and rewarding top performers in all areas," said Jean Baker, corporate director of health care improvement, BHCS.

### ■ **Instant messaging speeds radiology orders at BUMC**

BUMC began using a uniquely integrated communication system that enables the radiology department to securely send medical orders directly to radiology technicians wirelessly. Staff can receive medical orders anywhere on the hospital's 120-acre campus on a handheld

device. This is believed to be the first use of instant messaging and presence awareness on mobile devices to improve efficiency and productivity in a health care environment.

This innovative solution, part of Nortel's Healthcare Solutions portfolio, was designed in collaboration with Baylor's information technology department to improve patient care. Don Allen, director of radiology at BUMC, explained: "This technology enables technicians to receive their next assignment from any floor in the hospital—without having to return to the department following each procedure. We hope to increase productivity and also to speed the availability of diagnostic information for the physician. We foresee extending this type of technology to different departments throughout the hospital."

### ■ **BHCS receives national information technology recognition**

BHCS ranked number one in the health care industry category by *InformationWeek* magazine as part of its 19th annual ranking of the top 500 leading users of business technology in the nation. BHCS earned top marks for its physician portal upgrade, which improved the quality of care by helping patients get procedures scheduled faster and allowing physicians to access critical information for more informed and timely decisions.

### ■ **Baylor Institute for Immunology Research marks 10th anniversary**

Baylor Institute for Immunology Research (BIIR) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2007, capping a decade of advances in understanding the immune system and developing new treatments for cancer, autoimmune diseases, and infectious diseases, as well as reducing organ transplant rejection.

Established in 1996 as the immunology research component of Baylor Research Institute, BIIR brings together laboratory scientists and clinicians in an effort to increase understanding of how the human immune system works. Led by director Jacques Banchemereau, PhD, an internationally renowned immunologist, the institute is devoted to rapidly translating basic laboratory discoveries made about the immune system into effective treatments for humans.

"No other institute that I know of is dedicated solely to human immunology basic research and the direct translation of discoveries into clinical trials," said Dr. Banchemereau. "Over the last 10 years we have made significant advances in the field of human immunology that have already resulted in the improved health of many patients."

A critical element of success in this challenging area of improving human health is the ability to develop large-scale collaborative efforts. Since the establishment of BIIR, Baylor Research Institute has collaborated with more

## RECENT GRANTS

- **Developing effective therapeutic and preventive HIV vaccines**

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchemereau, PhD

Sponsor: Agence Nationale de Recherches sur le Sida et les Hepatites Virales (ANRS)

Funding: \$6,849,754

Award period: August 21, 2007, to August 20, 2011

- **Research consortium agreement**

Principal investigator: Michael Grant, MD

Sponsor: National Surgical Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project

Funding: \$222,258

Award period: June 1, 2007, to May 31, 2008

- **Functional MR in ischemic cardiomyopathy**

Principal investigator: Paul Grayburn, MD

Sponsor: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Funding: \$225,000

Award period: September 30, 2007, to July 31, 2008

- **Adverse event-directed analysis in ambulatory primary care**

Principal investigator: Donald Kennerly, MD

Sponsor: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Funding: \$199,986

Award period: September 1, 2007, to August 31, 2008

- **Targeting Langerhans cells for therapeutic vaccination in breast cancer**

Principal investigator: Karolina Palucka, PhD

Sponsor: Susan G. Komen for the Cure

Funding: \$299,643

Award period: August 6, 2007, to August 5, 2009

than 40 research organizations worldwide and has been awarded more than \$40 million in outside or competitive grants for research funding.

### ■ **Baylor Research Institute receives grant to develop novel vaccine to treat breast cancer**

The Baylor Research Institute has received a \$300,000 grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure to fund the development of a breast cancer vaccine that uses cells from the body's own immune system to treat patients with the disease. Karolina Palucka, MD, PhD, a cancer immunologist at BHIR, is the lead investigator of the study.

The vaccines are produced by fusing antibodies with portions of antigens from breast cancer. The antibodies recognize proteins on the surface of dendritic cells that are involved in mounting an immune response. When these fusion proteins are injected into a breast cancer patient, the antibody part of the fusion proteins will target the dendritic cells. Then the dendritic cells will take up the fusion proteins and use the breast cancer antigens to start an immune cascade that will attack the breast cancer.

"The goal of this therapy is to stimulate the immune system to destroy breast cancer tumor cells throughout the body," said Dr. Palucka.

### ■ **Baylor establishes nursing professorship**

BHCS has established the Baylor Distinguished Professorship for Nursing Research at The University of Texas at Arlington's School of Nursing. The professorship will allow the school to reward and recognize a distinguished faculty member who conducts research relevant to the field of nursing. In addition, it will allow BHCS hospitals and UT Arlington to collaborate on clinical and/or administrative nursing research, depending on the chosen faculty member's research emphasis.

"Baylor is committed to investing in the future of nursing education in the metroplex," said Rosemary Luquire, RN, PhD, chief nursing officer, BHCS. "We are pleased to partner with UT Arlington because of their commitment to advancing nursing education. Ultimately, we hope to promote more research conducted by nurses

throughout our system and we look forward to collaborating on many research initiatives with UT Arlington."

### ■ **Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano earns Nurse-Friendly designation**

The Texas Nurses Association presented Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano with the Nurse-Friendly designation in recognition of its practices, policies, and procedures that allow nurses to practice safe, quality patient care and to pursue a level of professional development and career satisfaction that retains them in the profession and at the bedside. The designation is presented twice a year to hospitals that demonstrate their commitment to supporting a nursing practice environment that is consistent with excellent patient care. Only 49 hospitals, out of the approximately 581 licensed hospitals in Texas, have achieved the Nurse-Friendly designation.

### ■ **BHCS wins award for best practices in seasonal influenza immunization**

The American Nurses Association recognized BHCS with a "Best Practices in Seasonal Influenza Immunization" award as part of a program designed to identify organizations that successfully increased vaccination rates

of their employees. These best practices will be compiled into a guidebook for use by health care systems and personnel around the country. Only four other organizations around the country were bestowed this honor.

### ■ **Baylor All Saints performs laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy with the Da Vinci system**

Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth performed a laparoscopic vaginal hysterectomy and pelvic lymphadenectomy to treat uterine cancer using Intuitive Surgical's da Vinci S HD System. This system integrates three-dimensional high-definition endoscopy and advanced robotic technology to virtually extend the surgeon's eyes and hands into the surgical field.

"The da Vinci S model provides us with more than twice the viewing resolution and more viewing area. Clarity and detail of tissue planes and anatomy, which is critical when performing delicate dissection or reconstructive procedures, are improved," said Kenneth Hancock, MD, a gynecologist/oncologist on the medical staff at Baylor All Saints. "We've only started to explore all the capabilities of this system. Typically, patients can recover from the surgery in days rather than weeks."

## **UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS**

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

- **2008 Cardiovascular Conference: Advances in Cardiovascular Therapy**, February 16, 2008, at the Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas
- **11th Annual Tyler Breast Cancer Conference**, March 29, 2008, at the 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:

- **C. Richard Boland, MD**, January 15, 2008
- **Shinichi Matsumoto, MD, PhD**, February 19, 2008
- **Clyde W. Yancy, MD**, March 18, 2008
- **Karen McCain, PT, DPT, NCS**, April 15, 2008

The forums will be held in Beasley Auditorium, 1 Truett, at noon. For more information, contact Robert Reed Obenour at 214-820-4090.