

## ■ **Baylor Health Care System receives national recognition in two publications**

For the 12th consecutive year, BUMC has been ranked **one of the top 50 hospitals** by *US News and World Report*. This year, BUMC was recognized in the specialties of cancer, digestive disorders, ear/nose/throat, gynecology, heart/heart surgery, hormonal disorders, kidney disorders, neurology/neurosurgery, orthopaedics, and urology. No other Texas hospital was ranked in more specialties. In addition, Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation ranked among the nation's top 26 rehabilitation facilities.

*Hospitals & Health Networks*, the journal of the American Hospital Association, also recognized Baylor as **one of the 100 "most wired" health care systems**. Baylor is one of only 19 hospitals nationwide to receive this recognition for 5 consecutive years. *US News & World Report* noted that Baylor was among only 38 hospitals nationally to be on both of these exclusive lists.

## ■ **New pavilion at Baylor Medical Center at Garland offers patient amenities**

Baylor Medical Center at Garland celebrated the opening of the Don and Ruth Buchholz Pavilion on August 1, 2004. The Buchholz Pavilion features new hospital services as well as expanded and enhanced services. The pavilion's first floor includes a serenity garden, community resource center, gift shop, conference center, new admitting and registration area, and new human resources department. The pavilion also includes the new Hartman Chapel, a sleeping area for families of intensive care unit patients, and an expanded waiting area for surgery patients. Responding to the community's needs, 25 new hospital beds have been added on the pavilion's fourth floor, and 25 more will be added on the third floor by the end of 2004, for a total of 50 new beds.

The new admitting and registration area features a customer-friendly pager system. During busy times, patients or family members are given a pager that lights up to alert them when admitting counselors are ready to complete the required paperwork. This allows guests to enjoy the serenity garden, visit the community resource center, or relax in the reception area. A similar paging system is used in the Heart and Vascular Center, which has centralized its

noninvasive diagnostic testing services on the pavilion's second floor.

## ■ **Baylor Center for Pain Management opens in Northeast Tarrant County**

The Baylor Center for Pain Management, an interdisciplinary pain management center, opened at 1615 Lancaster Drive, Suite 150, Grapevine, in July 2004. Under the directorship of Richard Vera, MD, the center offers acute and chronic pain management, epidural steroid injections, neural blockage procedures, and implantable pain therapies. It also offers interdisciplinary services in behavioral medicine, stress management and relaxation techniques, biofeedback training, and coping skills training. The Grapevine center is the third outpatient pain management facility opened by Baylor University Medical Center.

## ■ **Baylor study may benefit diabetes treatment**

Researchers on staff at BUMC have received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to begin a study of islet cell transplantation to treat type 1 diabetes. In the study, physicians will surgically remove islet cells from a deceased donor pancreas and inject the cells into the liver of a patient with type 1 diabetes. Investigators believe the islet cells will anchor in the liver, where they will receive blood and nutrients and potentially begin to produce insulin. Marlon Levy, MD, the trial's principal investigator, stated: "Islet cell transplantation is very promising and may lead to widespread control of type 1 diabetes."

## ■ **New procedure freezes heart cells**

Cardiologists at Baylor All Saints Medical Center and Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital are using a new procedure to correct arrhythmia in adults and help keep pacemakers at bay. In cryoablation, the physician uses a catheter filled with liquid nitrous oxide to freeze heart cells that cause arrhythmia. The resulting scar helps restore the heart's normal rhythm. While heat techniques have been used to correct arrhythmia, physicians at Baylor find that this technique allows them to test the effectiveness of the ablation before completely killing the diseased cells. During midprocedure testing, they also avoid the extra scarring and cell damage that can necessitate a pacemaker. Area pediatric specialists have used cryoablation

## **ACCOLADES**

Chemical Abstracts Service Science Spotlight recently recognized **Jacques Banchereau, PhD**, director of the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, as having the most cited journal article in 2002. Dr. Banchereau's paper, "Dendritic cells and the control of immunity," was published in *Nature*.

The trustees of **Baylor Medical Center at Irving** received the Excellence in Hospital Governance Award from the Texas Healthcare Trustees Foundation on August 23, 2004. Baylor Medical Center at Irving is the fifth member of the Baylor Health Care System to receive the award: Baylor University Medical Center, Baylor Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital, Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, and Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine have also been recognized by the Texas Academy of Governance.

with success, but the first North Texas adults undergoing the procedure were at Baylor's Fort Worth and Dallas campuses.

## ■ **Baylor leads largest hepatitis C trial of liver transplant patients**

Göran Klintmalm, MD, PhD, chief of Baylor Regional Transplant Institute and principal investigator of a study comparing 3 immunosuppressant treatment regimens in liver transplant recipients with hepatitis C, presented preliminary data from the trial at the American Transplant Congress. Hepatitis C is present in approximately 4 million Americans and affects half of all patients receiving liver transplants. It frequently recurs after liver transplantation, leading to death or retransplantation.

"The data obtained from this study will provide important information to improve the management of hepatitis C patients after liver transplantation," said Dr. Klintmalm. "While definitive analysis and conclusions will have to await completion of the trial in approximately 2 years, the early results are very encouraging."

A total of 312 patients enrolled in this prospective, multicenter, randomized study of 18 leading US transplant programs. BUMC initiated this trial and recruited the other 17 participating study sites.

## ■ Baylor Health Care System sells 20 medical office facilities to Healthcare Realty Trust

Baylor Health Care System recently sold 20 medical office facilities to Healthcare Realty Trust Incorporated for \$133 million. The facilities, totaling over 1 million square feet, are located on or near Baylor hospital campuses in Dallas, Garland, and Grapevine. "Sale of these medical office facilities allows us to focus financial and management resources on Baylor's mission and core business of acute patient care," said Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System. "In addition, the sale will improve the operations of the facilities. Sale of the facilities to a real estate investor, whose expertise is owning and managing medical office facilities, will promote capital improvements and enhance building management. This will make the buildings even better places for tenants to work and patients to visit."

## ■ New Baylor leaders

**William R. Duncan, PhD**, was appointed to the dual positions of chief operating officer and chief scientific officer for Baylor Research Institute. Dr. Duncan most recently served as deputy director

## RECENT GRANTS

- "The biology and diagnosis of hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer"  
Principal investigator: C. Richard Boland, Jr., MD  
Sponsor: National Cancer Institute  
Total funding: \$1,721,250  
Award period: July 1, 2004, to June 30, 2009
- "The accuracy of a screening echocardiogram in detecting idiopathic hypertrophic cardiomyopathy during the athletic preparticipation physical"  
Principal investigator: Shawn Bonsell, MD  
Sponsor: National Athletic Trainers' Association Research and Education Foundation  
Total funding: \$48,374  
Award period: June 14, 2004, to June 30, 2005

## UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

- **Sears Radiology Seminar**, October 19–20, 2004, at BUMC
- **Perioperative Issues in Liver Transplantation**, October 24, 2004, Las Vegas, Nevada
- **Breast Cancer Update: The Latest Techniques in Diagnosing and Treating Breast Cancer**, November 5, 2004, at Four Seasons Resort and Club, Dallas at Las Colinas
- **Eighth Annual Tyler Breast Conference**, March 19, 2005, at Harvey Convention Center, Tyler, Texas
- **Third Annual Baylor Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Course**, May 5–7, 2005, Lakewood Country Club, Dallas, 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:

- **Charles R. Roe, MD**, October 19, 2004
- **Jacques Banchereau, PhD**, November 16, 2004
- **Office of Nursing Research Studies**, December 6, 2004
- **Cara A. East, MD**, January 11, 2005
- **C. Richard Boland, Jr., MD**, February 15, 2005

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

of the Division of Allergy, Immunology, and Transplantation in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, where he coordinated development, implementation, and oversight of clinical trials programs in immune-mediated diseases.

**Jacques Banchereau, PhD**, director of the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, was appointed to the newly established W. W. Caruth, Jr. Chair in Organ Transplantation Immunology at Baylor Research Institute. The Baylor Health Care System Foundation received a \$5 million gift from the W. W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas to create the chair.

**Anna Karolina Palucka, MD, PhD**, investigator at the Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, was appointed to the newly established Michael A. E. Ramsay Chair for Cancer Immunology Research. The \$1 million gift from Louis Beecherl, Jr., and his wife, Julia, which endowed the chair, will further cancer research already under way with funding from the National Institutes of Health, including use of dendritic cell vaccines to treat cancer.

**Steven R. Newton** was appointed president of Baylor All Saints Medical Centers in Fort Worth. Before coming to Baylor, Mr. Newton was a hospital administrator with the Kansas City area's largest health system and second-largest employer, Health Midwest, for 15 years, most recently serving as president and chief executive officer of HCA Research Medical Center.

**Jerri Stuart, RN, MSHA**, was appointed president of the 66-bed Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie. Ms. Stuart came to this role after being interim president in Waxahachie and chief operating officer of the 308-bed Baylor Medical Center at Irving.

As Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano prepares to open, several leadership positions have been filled. **Lannie Hughes, MD**, is director of medical staff services; **Ellen Pitcher, RN**, vice president of nursing; **Ron Duperrior**, vice president of administration; and **Deanne Kindred**, vice president of finance. They join President Jack Aenchbacher.

Please send news items to Cynthia Orticio ([cynthiao@BaylorHealth.edu](mailto:cynthiao@BaylorHealth.edu)).