

ACCOLADES

Joel Allison, president and chief executive officer of Baylor Health Care System, was appointed to the National Quality Forum's board of directors.

Paul Convery, MD, chief medical officer of Baylor Health Care System, was named one of the 50 most influential physician executives in health care for 2006 by *Modern Healthcare*.

Baylor Health Care System was recently honored by the *Dallas Business Journal* as a **top 12 "Best Place to Work"** in the large corporation division, which includes metroplex-based companies with more than 500 employees.

FranklinCovey honored Baylor Health Care System with a prestigious **Award in Leadership Greatness**. The award recognizes teams and organizations whose formal or informal leadership embodies FranklinCovey leadership principles with positive, measurable results.

In May 2006, several Baylor hospitals were honored with a **VHA Leadership Award in Clinical Excellence**: Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital, Baylor Medical Center at Irving, Baylor Medical Center at Southwest Fort Worth, Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano, and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. Awards recognized institutions that achieved "core measures" at least 90% of the time.

■ Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine opens new spine center

To accommodate the growing number of adults experiencing back and neck pain, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine recently added a new spine center at the Baylor Therapy Center. Clients with spine conditions will be able to use one of the few warm-water aquatics pools in Tarrant County. To promote nonsurgical treatments, the physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians on the Baylor Grapevine medical staff will evaluate each patient and determine the most appropriate treatment, which may include medication, magnetic resonance imaging, and/or physical therapy. The multidisciplinary medical team consists of physical medicine physicians, physical and occupational therapists, consulting neurosurgeons, and orthopaedic surgeons. If needed, referrals may be made to pain management specialists or other health care professionals.

This center at the Baylor Therapy Center is the latest of several growth and expansion projects at Baylor Grapevine, including a new 24-bed telemetry monitoring unit, a sleep laboratory, an epilepsy monitoring unit, a second cardiac catheterization laboratory, and the Baylor Medical Plaza at Keller.

■ Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence

The Weight Loss Surgery Program at Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) has been named an American Society for Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence, a designation recognizing programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric

surgery. BUMC's program is the eighth in Texas to earn the designation. The designation process included site inspections, examination of the program's surgical processes, and collection of data on health outcomes.

The number of US bariatric surgeries more than quadrupled between 1998 and 2002. The Centers of Excellence program was created to recognize surgery centers that perform well and to help surgeons and hospitals continue to improve the quality and safety of care. Programs receiving the Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation continue to share clinical pathways, protocols, and outcomes data.

■ Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine begins expansion of emergency department

On April 17, 2006, Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine began a \$9.2 million, 19-month-long expansion of its emergency department. The construction will result in a 29-bed, 23,300-square-foot emergency department instead of the existing 22-bed, 11,300-square-foot department.

"In fiscal year 2005, our emergency department had approximately 36,000 patient visits, which was more than a 30% increase compared to fiscal year 1999," said Laura J. Lycan, president, Baylor Grapevine. "In order to continue to offer our community quality care that is convenient and accessible, we must expand our capabilities to meet the growing demand for exceptional emergency services."

The new emergency department will have universal patient treatment rooms, a smart design that allows flexible use of the room based on the severity of the patient's condition. The private patient treatment rooms will be larger to better accommodate the patient and family members. Point-of-care testing and a computed tomography scanner will also be available, and patients and families will have more seating and other conveniences in the larger patient reception and waiting areas. A paperless physician and nursing documentation system, based in the emergency department, will allow caregivers with appropriate credentials to access emergency department patient information from any hospital computer. This will significantly enhance efficiency and communication when a patient is admitted to the hospital from the emergency department.

UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

2006 Baylor Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Congress,

August 18–20, 2006, at Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas

For more information, call 214-820-2317.

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

Jacques F. Banchereau, PhD: September 19, 2006

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

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

RECENT GRANTS

- **Development of a neonatal oxygen therapy information system to support oximetry targets in newborn intensive care units**

Principal investigator: Cody Arnold, MD
Sponsor: Fight for Sight
Funding: \$15,000
Award period: January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006

- **Human dendritic cells and in vivo immunity to biothreat**

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchemereau, PhD
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Funding: \$3,148,010
Award period: April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2007

- **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

- **Subpopulations of human dendritic cells**

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchemereau, PhD
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Funding: \$301,556
Award period: April 28, 2006, to February 28, 2007

- **JC virus and tumor formation in the human colon**

Principal investigator: C. Richard Boland, MD
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Funding: \$268,049
Award period: April 1, 2006, to February 28, 2007

- **The biology and diagnosis of hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer**

Principal investigator: C. Richard Boland, MD
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Funding: \$336,161
Award period: May 1, 2006, to April 30, 2007

- **Effect of S-adenosylmethionine on blood homocysteine**

Principal investigator: Teodoro Bottiglieri, PhD
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
Funding: \$152,500
Award period: April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2007

- **Cooperative multicenter traumatic brain injury clinical trials network**

Principal investigator: Alan Frol, PhD
Sponsor: Columbia University/National Institutes of Health
Funding: \$8,240
Award period: September 1, 2005, to February 28, 2006

- **The TIE diabetes project**

Principal investigator: Robert Mayberry, PhD, MPH
Sponsor: Subcontract from Morehouse School of Medicine/Aetna Foundation
Funding: \$58,505
Award period: March 1, 2006, to April 30, 2008

- **A neonatal oxygen therapy information system to support oximetry targets in newborn intensive care units**

Principal investigator: Cody Arnold, MD
Sponsor: Knights Templar Eye Foundation Inc.
Funding: \$30,000
Award period: April 1, 2006, to March 30, 2007

- **Clinical efficacy and cost implications of acute BMP-2 application in grade IIIB tibia fractures: a prospective randomized multicenter study**

Principal investigator: Alan Jones, MD
Sponsor: Carolinas Medical Center
Funding: \$10,000
Award period: March 1, 2006, to June 30, 2006

- **Norepinephrine levels in swine and canine kidney tissue**

Principal investigator: Teodoro Bottiglieri, PhD
Sponsor: Ardian, Inc.
Funding: \$29,275
Award period: Beginning March 26, 2006

- **Fee for services to provide testing of pig blood or DNA samples**

Principal investigator: Douglas Smith, PhD
Sponsor: PIC USA, Inc.
Funding: \$35,001
Award period: Beginning March 27, 2006

- **Services for newborn tandem mass spectrometry screening**

Principal investigator: Lawrence Sweetman, PhD
Sponsor: State of Oklahoma
Funding: \$85,000
Award period: January 18, 2006, to June 30, 2006

■ BUMC first in area to offer new tool for treating Barrett's esophagus

Physicians at BUMC are the first in the area to use the HALO³⁶⁰ System for treating Barrett's esophagus. In an outpatient procedure, this system delivers a short burst of energy to the lining of the esophagus to uniformly remove the thin layer of diseased tissue. "Completely removing the thin layer of the diseased esophageal lining makes early treatment of Barrett's possible," said Daniel DeMarco, MD, medical director of endoscopy and the gastrointestinal lab at BUMC. "The availability of this proactive option at Baylor Dallas underscores our long-standing commitment to cancer prevention."

■ Expansion projects at BUMC

About \$70 million in capital projects are planned for BUMC in 2006, and more than \$300 million in improvements are planned across Baylor Health Care System in the next 5 years. The BUMC projects include the following:

- The addition of a campus-changing circular drive with valet, between Truett and Hoblitzelle hospitals, and a 5000-square-foot atrium. The new entrance at 3500 Gaston Avenue symbolizes a "return to Baylor's roots," since it replaces and updates the original main entrance.
- A seven-story medical office building that will house several outpatient services along with physician offices. BUMC is also building a 1000-space parking garage adjacent to the new office building.
- The significant expansion and redesign of the emergency department, which will triple the department's size.
- Development of existing space in Hoblitzelle Hospital and Wadley Tower for the services of the Baylor Neuroscience Center. The new center will centralize and expand BUMC's comprehensive care for the brain and spine.

■ Baylor researchers develop new gene therapy technique for the potential treatment of type 1 diabetes mellitus

Researchers at BUMC have developed a novel ultrasound targeted microbubble destruction (UTMD) technique to deliver insulin genes to the pancreas. The research results were published in the May 2006 issue of the *Proceedings of*

PHILANTHROPY NOTES

■ \$1 million endowment to support Baylor family residency program

A generous gift from local philanthropists Linda and Mitch Hart will fund the first endowed chair for a family residency program in the Baylor Health Care System. The \$1 million endowment will support the Perry E. Gross, MD, Chair for Family Medicine, which provides training for the chief resident of the Baylor family medicine residency each year.

The Harts established this endowment at the Baylor Health Care System Foundation to recognize Dr. Gross, a lifelong friend and a distinguished family medicine physician practicing in Dallas for more than 50 years. Dr. Gross, who celebrated his 80th birthday in January, still practices at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, where he served as chief of family practice from 1974 to 2000. He

also served as chairman of the BUMC medical board in 1985.

"Perry Gross has mentored many family practice physicians in the community and beyond," Rowland K. Robinson, president of the Baylor Health Care System Foundation said. "We are honored to receive these funds from the Harts, which allow us to publicly acknowledge Dr. Gross' contributions in this specialty."

The impact of this gift and the family medicine residency will be felt throughout the community. Eighty percent of the Baylor family medicine residency graduates practice in North Texas communities.

"New graduate physicians will be able to go out into the community with the full spectrum of training and expertise needed to provide care from the newborn nursery to the nursing

home," Leslie Tingle, MD, medical director of the Baylor family medicine program at Baylor Garland, said.

The Baylor Health Care System Foundation is a separately incorporated not-for-profit organization that raises and manages charitable funds to support Baylor Health Care System's mission of exemplary health care, education, research, and community service. Since the Foundation was established in 1978, total assets have grown from \$5 million to \$235 million, which includes pledges and long-term investments. Support comes from nearly 9000 active donors, including individuals, corporations, and other foundations. Since 1978, the foundation has distributed \$228 million to Baylor Health Care System.

the National Academy of Sciences (see abstract on p. 299).

UTMD delivers these insulin genes to the organ via microscopic "bubbles." Once the bubbles reach their target, they are burst with ultrasound, releasing the insulin genes into the pancreas. Using UTMD, researchers delivered the bubbles containing human insulin genes into the pancreas of rats and found that the rat's blood sugar was subsequently lowered. Another gene that regulates insulin production, known as hexokinase I, was successfully delivered using UTMD as well and resulted in increased blood insulin and decreased blood sugar in the rats.

"Not only was their blood sugar lowered, but there was no evidence of any damage to the pancreas," said Paul Grayburn, MD, principal investigator of the study. "Other forms of gene therapy are usually invasive and, unlike the UTMD technique, do not target the tissues and organs specifically." He added, "Now that

we have successfully delivered insulin genes to the pancreas, our ultimate goal is to research the regeneration of insulin-producing cells in patients with diabetes."

Dr. Grayburn's research was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health and by the Mary Alice M. and Mark Shepherd, Jr., Endowment Fund in Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery and Research. The study was also held in conjunction with researchers from Duke University and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

■ Baylor Research Institute receives Nellcor grant to research development of oxygen monitoring system for premature newborns

Baylor Research Institute has received a grant from Nellcor to support the development of an information system tracking oxygen saturation levels of neonatal patients via pulse

oximetry. Baylor researchers hope that this system, known as the Neonatal Oxygen Therapy Information System (NOTIS), will help to prevent retinopathy of prematurity, a disorder affecting premature newborns that can cause severe visual impairments or blindness. While several factors may contribute to the development of retinopathy of prematurity, some clinicians feel that closer examination of current oxygenation standards could improve outcomes. When complete, NOTIS will be available at no cost to any researcher or neonatal intensive care unit interested in studying oxygenation levels of premature infants in an effort to advance patient care.

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.