

## ■ Baylor Health Care System and MedBasics announce affiliation

Baylor Health Care System (BHCS) and MedBasics executed a formal collaboration agreement, which began on February 15, 2007. MedBasics operates convenient care clinics that provide walk-in medical services inside major retail outlets for routine medical conditions and preventive care. This agreement will maximize the delivery of accessible health care in North Texas while allowing both organizations to maintain their independence and control. Specifically, the agreement provides for BHCS to identify a corporate medical director and supervising physicians for new MedBasics locations. The first MedBasics clinic with Baylor-identified physician oversight will open in summer 2007.

"We look forward to collaborating with MedBasics based on the company's pioneering work in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. This organization has introduced affordable and accessible health care in a retail setting, which benefits all North Texans," said Joel Allison, BHCS president and chief executive officer.

At MedBasics clinics, a certified nurse practitioner or physician assistant works with oversight from a physician, evaluating and treating patients for a variety of minor illnesses, such as allergies, bladder infections, bronchitis, ear and sinus infections, fever, and strep throat for a charge of \$49. School physical exami-

nations, immunizations, and flu shots are also offered, and no insurance coverage is required. MedBasics plans to open 500 convenient care clinics nationwide by 2010.

## ■ Baylor Medical Center at Frisco opens new wings as part of a \$65 million expansion

Baylor Medical Center at Frisco completed the first phase of its \$65 million expansion project in May 2007, adding 58,890 square feet and more than doubling its facility size. The new wing includes five operating rooms, two treatment rooms for pain management and gastrointestinal procedures, an additional emergency department treatment room, four preoperative beds, and 15 postoperative/recovery beds. It also features a new lobby and a medical education center that will serve as a teaching facility for surgeons—the first hands-on teaching center of its kind within BHCS.

In addition, in June 2007, a \$20 million labor and delivery unit was added; this represents a new service line for Baylor Frisco. The new unit has nine labor and delivery suites, eight antepartum suites, 15 postpartum suites, an eight-bed neonatal intensive care unit, a 16-bed well baby nursery, and three operating rooms.

"Baylor Frisco was originally designed to grow with the community, both in size and medical services," said Jimmy Laferney, MD,

## ACCOLADES

BHCS Chief Medical Officer **Paul Convery, MD**, has again made *Modern Healthcare's* list of the 50 most influential physician executives. Dr. Convery ranks eighth on this year's list. His selection is an indication of the national recognition that BHCS is receiving in its efforts to improve health care and be a national industry leader.

**William C. Roberts, MD**, director of the Baylor Heart and Vascular Institute, was lauded for 25 years of service as editor of the *American Journal of Cardiology* at the 2007 American College of Cardiology meeting in New Orleans. *The American Journal of Cardiology* is one of the leading journals in cardiovascular medicine.

**James Walton, DO**, chief health equity officer of BHCS, has been selected to participate in a prestigious year-long executive leadership program designed to tackle racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Walton is one of only 28 individuals from 14 US health care organizations to be selected for the Disparities Leadership Program.

vice president of medical affairs, Baylor Frisco. "With this phase complete, we will be able to serve more patients, offer more services, and expand our medical staff."

## PHILANTHROPY NOTES

### ■ Bea and Ray Wallace offer \$5 million cardiovascular challenge grant to Baylor

Dallas philanthropists Bea and Ray Wallace have given a generous challenge grant to the BHCS Foundation. To meet this challenge, the Foundation will raise \$5 million for cardiovascular research and education.

"Despite many advances made in treatment over the past half century, heart disease remains the number one killer of both men and women in the United States," said Ray Wallace. "By making this challenge to Baylor, we hope to inspire others in the community to step up and support this worthy cause."

Money raised as a result of the Wallaces' challenge will focus on building Baylor Heart and Vascular Institute's current core strengths,

including teaching programs, cardiovascular research, and continuing medical education. The funds will also be used for new initiatives such as support for cardiovascular graduate medical education, coordination of cardiovascular-related clinical research across BHCS, and initiation and oversight of advanced care clinical initiatives.

"The continuum of care, from research to medical education to direct patient care, is at the core of the mission of the Baylor Heart and Vascular Institute," said Clyde Yancy, MD, the institute's medical director. "If we are to advance the knowledge and expertise in heart and vascular care, we must aggressively raise funds to meet our clinical research and education needs. Philanthropy will make a vital difference."

### ■ Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth opens new oncology unit

Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth opened a new 26-bed oncology unit on the seventh floor of Martin Tower on March 20, 2007. The new oncology unit allows patients to access a complete continuum of care, including diagnosis and staging, treatment, long-term follow-up, palliative and terminal care, lymphedema services, stroboscopy/speech therapy, chronic pain management, and Gamma Knife for radiosurgical treatment of brain tumors. In addition to its dedicated oncology inpatient medical unit, the hospital has an adjacent outpatient infusion area, an inpatient hospice unit, and facilities for cancer research.

"Baylor All Saints has had a tradition of providing quality cancer care," said Linda Schickedanz, RN, MSN, CNS, executive director, cancer program, Baylor All Saints Medical

## RECENT GRANTS

- **Altered CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell compartment in SLE patients**

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchereau, PhD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$381,250  
Award period: March 1, 2007, to February 28, 2008

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

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchereau, PhD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$3,313,325  
Award period: April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008

- **Transcriptional signatures for diagnosis of different spectra of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection and characterization of the immune response during “latency” or active disease**

Principal investigator: Damien Chaussabel, PhD  
Sponsor: Dana Foundation  
Funding: \$100,000  
Award period: January 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007

- **New predictors of SLE disease activity**

Principal investigator: Virginia Pascual, PhD  
Sponsor: Alliance for Lupus  
Funding: \$500,000  
Award period: March 1, 2007, to February 28, 2008

- **Kirkland Scholar Award 2006**

Principal investigator: Virginia Pascual, PhD  
Sponsor: Rheuminations, Inc.  
Funding: \$60,000  
Award period: March 13, 2007, to March 12, 2008

- **The biology and diagnosis of HNPCC**

Principal investigator: C. Richard Boland, MD  
Sponsor: National Institutes of Health  
Funding: \$326,412  
Award period: May 1, 2007, to April 30, 2008

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

Principal investigator: Anna Palucka, MD, PhD  
Sponsor: Susan G. Komen Foundation for the Cure  
Funding: \$299,643  
Award period: July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2009

Center at Fort Worth. “This comfortable and spacious new environment gives us the opportunity to make a great difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families. Our goal remains providing comfort, symptom management, and hope to patients while they fight cancer.”

### ■ Breakthrough cancer screening for smokers

The Mary Crowley Cancer Research Center, in collaboration with the Baylor Sammons Lung Cancer Center, is launching a study aimed at early detection of lung cancer in high-risk smokers. The study will use the exclusive Cell Search System, which is currently approved for use in monitoring metastatic breast cancer. This system can pinpoint a single cancerous cell in 40 billion blood cells. The study will target asymptomatic persons aged 50 to 74 with a 40 pack-year history of smoking who are current smokers or who have quit smoking within the past 10 years.

“Our goal is to save lives by detecting early-stage cancer in this population of smokers so they can get treatment,” said Mary Crowley’s Dr. Michael Nemunaitis, principal investigator for the study. “We hope to determine that this screening approach will prove to be an earlier detection step at a cost-effective rate for those who are at a high risk for lung cancer.”

### ■ Three Baylor hospitals named Blue Distinction Centers for cardiac care, bariatric surgery

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas has named Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas (BUMC), Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital, and Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano as Blue Distinction Centers for cardiac care. In addition, BUMC is recognized as a Blue Distinction Center for bariatric surgery. Blue Distinction is the Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies’ nationwide program

that will create an unprecedented level of transparency with two goals: enabling consumers to make better-informed health care decisions and collaborating with physicians and hospitals to improve quality outcomes and affordability. The process used to select Blue Distinction Centers was based on clinical data supplied by hospitals. Each facility’s structure, processes, and care outcomes were rigorously evaluated according to nationally endorsed quality measures.

### ■ VHA Leadership Awards given to Baylor hospitals

Nine hospitals within BHCS received the 2007 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence. The award honors health care organizations that have differentiated themselves around national performance standards by achieving performance at the 90th percentile level or above on clinical core measures. The awards were as follows:

- BUMC for acute myocardial infarction treatment and surgical infection prevention
- Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth for surgical infection prevention
- Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital for acute myocardial infarction treatment, heart failure, and surgical infection prevention
- Baylor Medical Center at Garland for acute myocardial infarction treatment and surgical infection prevention
- Baylor Medical Center at Irving for heart failure
- Baylor Medical Center at Southwest Fort Worth for surgical infection prevention
- Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie for acute myocardial infarction treatment, heart failure, and surgical infection prevention
- Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine for acute myocardial infarction treatment and heart failure
- Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano for acute myocardial infarction treatment and heart failure

In announcing the VHA awards, Curt Nonomaque, president and chief executive officer of VHA Inc., said, “Baylor Health Care System should be proud that they are the most consistently represented hospitals each time VHA puts together our recognition program.”

*For upcoming CME programs, see p. 298.*