

■ Baylor receives prestigious National Quality Forum award

The National Quality Forum (NQF) recently presented Baylor Health Care System (BHCS) with the National Quality Healthcare Award. The award was presented to Joel Allison, president and CEO, at a gala and reception in Baylor's honor held in Washington, DC (Figure). The National Quality Healthcare Award is given each year to exemplary health care organizations who are role models for achieving meaningful, sustainable quality improvement in health care and is presented in partnership with *Modern Healthcare* and Studer Group. "Other systems can learn much from Baylor's experiences in improving their public reporting and measurement programs. They are an exemplary model," said NQF President and CEO Janet Corrigan. This marks the award's 15th year.



Figure. Dr. Janet Corrigan presents BHCS President and CEO Joel Allison with the 2008 National Quality Healthcare Award.

■ U.S. News & World Report names BIR and BUMC among "America's Best"

Of the nation's 5700 hospitals, Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation (BIR) and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas (BUMC) were two of

170 hospitals to be ranked in the *U.S. News & World Report's* 19th annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue.

BIR ranked 13th among the nation's top 25 rehabilitation facilities, marking the 12th year BIR was recognized. BUMC has been ranked as one of the best hospitals for 16 consecutive years. Only one other Texas hospital (St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston) was named in more specialties. BUMC was ranked in endocrinology (32nd), gynecology (35th), kidney disease (30th), orthopaedics (33rd), and respiratory disorders (35th).

In 2007, nearly 40,000 inpatients and more than 250,000 outpatients were treated at BUMC. The 1002-bed hospital is a level I trauma center with more than 1275 physicians on the medical staff, nearly 200 medical residents and fellows, and 5225 employees. More than 600 clinical research trials are currently under way at Baylor Research Institute.

PHILANTHROPY NOTES

■ Baylor Foundation celebrates 30th anniversary

This year, the BHCS Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed more than \$325 million to support Baylor's vision of providing safe, quality, compassionate health care.

■ \$5 million gift infuses blood cancer research

This spring, the Pauline Allen Gill Foundation gave \$5 million in memory of Pauline Gill Sullivan to support the new cancer center at BUMC. Nancy Seay, president of the Pauline Allen Gill Foundation and daughter of Pauline Gill Sullivan, and Pauline Neuhoff, granddaughter of Pauline Gill Sullivan, orchestrated the gift, which will support hematological research at BUMC and establish The Pauline Allen Gill Distinguished Chair in Hematological Cancer Research. The atrium in the new cancer outpatient building on the BUMC campus will bear the name of Pauline Gill Sullivan, who gave so much of her time, talents, and treasure to the Dallas community.

"This gift represents a significant vote of confidence for the new cancer center at Baylor. We are grateful to the Gill Foundation and the family of Pauline Gill Sullivan for their generous

support of the center and this critical area of research," said Rowland K. Robinson, president of the BHCS Foundation.

The gift will greatly enhance the research programs at BUMC, aligning personnel and resources so that Baylor may bring clinical trials to cancer patients. Brian Berryman, MD, hematologist/oncologist on the medical staff at BUMC, will help plan the details of the program.

■ Discovery Foundation donates \$350,000 for breast imaging technology

BHCS has received some unexpected good news from the Discovery Foundation. David Winter, MD, president of the Discovery Foundation, announced that the board of directors has approved a \$350,000 grant to Celebrating Women for new technology in the Darlene G. Cass Imaging Center.

The Discovery Foundation grant will allow Baylor to acquire positron emission mammography (PEM), which uses a high-resolution gamma camera. Sometimes referred to as molecular breast imaging, this technology can pick up the most subtle features to differentiate tumor from normal tissue.

Conventional mammography can have a false-negative rate of up to 10%—partly due to

dense breast tissues obscuring the cancer and the large overlap between the appearance of tumor and normal tissue. PEM will help reduce the instances of false-negative readings.

Baylor will be the first imaging facility in the Southwest to have this technology.

■ Employee Giving Campaign surpasses goal

Every year, BHCS employees join together to support the Employee Giving Campaign. This year, BHCS employees raised more than \$735,000, exceeding the goal of \$600,000—and demonstrating the dedication to charitable acts that defines Baylor.

"The gifts employees give send a profound message to the community that Baylor employees not only work here, but they also are personally committed to our mission," said Rowland K. Robinson, president of the BHCS Foundation. "Employees joined together this year in an unprecedented way, and their remarkable annual giving record is a testament to them and the culture of philanthropy at Baylor."

The funds raised by the campaign support graduate medical education, nursing education, the feeding program at Our Children's House, and the Employee Assistance Trust Fund.

■ Five Baylor hospitals earn VHA awards

VHA Inc., a national health care alliance, has awarded five BHCS hospitals 2008 VHA Leadership Awards for Clinical Excellence and Superior Safety. The hospitals were honored for meeting or exceeding national performance standards for clinical care in specific areas from the third quarter of 2006 to the second quarter of 2007. VHA recognized only hospitals that continued to show improvement each quarter or those whose average scores across these measures put them at the top in the nation.

The awards were as follows:

- Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital: Clinical excellence for the treatment of congestive heart failure and prevention of surgical complications
- Baylor Specialty Hospital: Superior safety for the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia
- Our Children's House at Baylor: Superior safety for the prevention of ventilator-associated pneumonia
- Baylor Medical Center at Garland: Clinical excellence for the prevention of surgical complications
- Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie: Clinical excellence for the prevention of surgical complications

"Baylor is committed to providing health care that is safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable,

ACCOLADES AND APPOINTMENTS

The Dallas Historical Society presented **Göran Klintmalm, MD, PhD**, chairman and chief of Baylor Regional Transplant Institute, its Award for Excellence in Community Service in the category of health and science. Dr. Klintmalm has been a leader in the field of transplant services for the past 20 years and leads one of the largest multi-specialty transplant centers in the country.

BHCS has named **Tom Trenary** president of Baylor Medical Center at Garland. Trenary's impressive career in health care spans more than

two decades and encompasses senior leadership roles at health care organizations across the country. Prior to joining Baylor, Trenary established and managed the Western Region of MedCath, a cardiac health care system based in Charlotte, NC. Trenary has also been a senior leader for Transitional Hospitals Corporation, Tenet Healthcare Corporation, and Community Hospitals of Central California. **Jim Thaxton**, who had served as Baylor Garland's president, became chief operating officer of BUMC.

and patient centered as part of our vision of achieving best care," said Joel Allison, BHCS president and CEO. "We are always looking for opportunities to improve the quality of care for our patients, and these awards reflect those efforts." In fiscal year 2007, BHCS hospitals averaged 97% in the implementation of 13 evidence-based processes of care for acute myocardial infarction, community-acquired pneumonia, congestive heart failure, and surgical infection prevention.

■ New ACL injury prevention program for girls at Baylor Plano

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Plano is now offering an anterior

cruciate ligament (ACL) injury prevention program for girls aged 13 and above. Recent research has shown that girls can be up to eight times more likely to tear their ACL than boys. The program is supervised by a licensed physical therapist and certified strength and conditioning specialist at Baylor Plano. Sessions are held twice a week for 6 weeks. A typical session includes a warm-up, core strengthening, flexibility training, plyometrics, agility training, strength training, and speed training.

■ Baylor Grapevine adds the da Vinci Surgical System

Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine recently purchased the da Vinci robot

RECENT GRANTS

• BRIDGES (Bringing Research in Diabetes to Global Environments and Systems)

Principal investigator: David Ballard, MD, PhD

Sponsor: International Diabetes Foundation

Funding: \$65,000

Award period: July 23, 2008, to July 22, 2009

• Improving the efficacy of dendritic cell vaccines

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchereau, PhD

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Funding: \$985,145

Award period: June 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009

• Accelerating translational research

Principal investigator: Jacques Banchereau, PhD

Sponsor: Health Resources and Services Administration

Funding: \$333,638

Award period: June 1, 2008, to September 30, 2009

• Mechanisms of vascular dysfunction in homocysteinemia

Principal investigator: Teodoro Bottiglieri, PhD

Sponsor: University of Iowa/National Institutes of Health

Funding: \$50,000

Award period: June 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009

• Chemoprevention agent

Principal investigator: Teodoro Bottiglieri, PhD

Sponsor: University of California/National Institutes of Health

Funding: \$59,268

Award period: July 29, 2008, to September 29, 2009

• Diversification of cytotoxic effector cells via LPS-activated dendritic cells

Principal investigator: Ana Palucka, PhD

Sponsor: National Cancer Institute

Funding: \$526,521

Award period: July 11, 2008, to May 31, 2009

• Center for Lupus Research

Principal investigator: Virginia Pascual, MD

Sponsor: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Funding: \$1,231,434

Award period: August 1, 2008, to July 31, 2009

surgical system to perform laparoscopic minimally invasive gynecological and urological surgeries. "The addition of the da Vinci Surgical System is a continuation of our efforts to expand the capabilities of our medical center to meet the needs of the many communities that we support," said Baylor Grapevine President Doug Lawson. "We are excited to offer this technological advancement to our patients."

Surgeons on the medical staff at Baylor Grapevine performed a total laparoscopic hysterectomy, bilateral salpingoophorectomy, and lymph node dissection using the da Vinci system on July 15, 2008. The system integrates 3-dimensional high-definition endoscopy and advanced robotic technology to virtually extend the surgeon's eyes and hands into the surgical field.

■ **Baylor All Saints Medical Center plans unique comprehensive breast center**

Baylor All Saints Medical Center at Fort Worth has announced plans to develop a comprehensive breast center in Tarrant County. Named on behalf of breast cancer survivor Joan Katz, the center will serve patients and

their families by developing interaction between multiple specialists and services in one centralized location. Patients of the center will be given a nurse navigator who will assist them in coordinating services from initial diagnosis through final treatment and follow-up. The All

Saints Health Foundation is conducting a \$2.4 million campaign for the construction and operational expenses, along with an \$11 million endowment campaign. The facility will open in late 2009 and will be located on the first floor of the medical office building.

UPCOMING CME PROGRAMS

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

- **35th Annual Williamsburg Conference on Heart Disease**, December 7–9, 2008, at Williamsburg, Virginia

- **Innovations in Skull Base Surgery**, January 24, 2009, at Hilton Park Cities, Dallas

- **2009 Advances in Cardiovascular Care: Baylor All Saints Cardiology Conference**, February 14, 2009, at the Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth

For more information, call 214-820-2317 or visit www.cmebaylor.org.

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

- **M. Alan Menter, MD**, October 21, 2008

- **Göran B. Klintmalm, MD, PhD**, November 18, 2008

- **J. J. Cush, MD**, December 16, 2008

The forums will be held in the Folsom Room, 17 Roberts, at noon. For more information, contact Robert Reed Obenour at 214-820-4090.