

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BATON ROUGE - The LSU Health Care Services Division announced Monday that Dr. Kathy Hebert, MD,MPH,MMM, who supervises the heart failure prevention program for Louisiana's eight public hospitals across the state, has been named as one of seven health care professionals to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program in Washington, D.C. for 2005-2006.

Beginning in September, Dr. Hebert will spend a year in the nation's capitol with other outstanding mid-career health care professionals who were chosen on a competitive basis from nominations submitted by academic institutions, nonprofit health care organizations, and other community-based providers. During this year, she will enrich her understanding of public policy practices and the ways government health research relates to her own research in evidence-based disease management.

"I feel compelled and called to obtain the skill and experience from this fellowship, so that it may be used to contribute to improving health care for Louisiana's most valuable resource, its people," said Hebert.

Dr. Hebert will undergo an intense three-month orientation, meeting top health agency administrators, congressional staff, and key White House advisors, followed by a work assignment in a legislative or executive branch office with leading responsibilities for health legislation and programs. At the completion of her fellowship, Dr. Hebert will return and apply her experiences to improving health policy and management for Louisianians. She will have the opportunity to receive additional support for up to two years following the completion of her federal work assignment.

Dr. Hebert received a Master's degree in Medical Management from the Tulane School of Public Health and an MD from the LSU School of Medicine and has been a pioneer and lead strategist in LSU's disease management program for heart failure patients since 1995. She has her Master's degree in Public Health from Harvard School of Public Health and recently completed the Summer Program in Clinical Effectiveness there as well. She will also be featured next Spring in a PBS four-part series on chronic disease in America.

The fellowship program was established by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 1973 and is housed at the Institute of Medicine.

"This program seeks to blend the practical, real-world knowledge of the health care system with national and local policy efforts about how to improve it," said Constance Pechura, Ph.D., senior program officer at RWJF. "Our hope is that the 'hands-on' experience will create a context for the fellows, and enable them to make an impact in their future endeavors."

Over 200 fellows from universities, colleges and other health-related organizations across the nation have participated in the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program. In addition to Dr. Hebert, those selected for the 2005-2006 program include:

Martina Bebin, M.D., M.P.A. , Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Leona Cuttler, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics
Case Western Reserve University

Sarah England, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physiology and Biophysics
University of Iowa-Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine

Robin Hemphill, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Program Director of Emergency Medicine
Medical Director, National Center for Emergency Preparedness
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Roger Johns, M.D., M.H.S., Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine
The Johns Hopkins University

Alfred Pheley, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Community and Rural
Medicine
Assistant Dean for Clinical Research
Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Additional information about The Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowships Program
can be found at www.iom.edu/rwj