



University Hospital Open Again

Public Hospital a New Orleans Landmark

For Immediate Distribution

Baton Rouge, LA (November 20, 2006) – The LSU Health Care Services Division - Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans announced today the re-opening of University Hospital at 2021 Perdido Street. The hospital will provide the highest level of primary and specialty care.

“Re-opening University Hospital represents a significant milestone for New Orleans in recovering from Katrina,” said LSU System President Dr. William L. Jenkins. “For our dedicated LSU doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, returning this updated hospital to service is a singular achievement as we re-craft health care delivery in Louisiana.”

The \$64 million plus renovations are being financed entirely by FEMA. Today’s opening is the first of several phases. Seventy beds are presently in service, and more will open as staffing allows. “University Hospital will offer all of the services available at Charity and University Hospital before the storm, with the exception of psychiatry and inpatient rehabilitation,” says Don Smithburg, CEO LSU Hospitals. LSU plans to move the trauma center currently at Elmwood to University by January 1st, that will add 50 additional beds and reestablish the area’s only ‘Level 1’ trauma center.

“The hospital will operate as an interim facility,” says Rod West, Chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors, “Until we construct a new academic medical center in New Orleans in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs.”

University and neighboring Avery C. Alexander Charity Hospital suffered extensive flood damage in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Consulting engineers have declared Charity unfit for medical use and there are no plans to open the facility.

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