

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES \$2 MILLION  
FOR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANSION**

*Additional space will relieve overcrowding*

**Baton Rouge (October 9, 2007)** -- University Medical Center (UMC) is receiving \$2,045,000 for expansion and renovation of its emergency department. The State Bond Commission approved on September 20, 2007, the UMC Emergency Department Expansion Project, with \$340,000 available immediately and \$1,705,000 available for future expenses.

UMC will hold a press conference to discuss the expansion on Thursday, October 11, 2007, at 1:30 PM, at UMC, 2390 West Congress St., Lafayette, La. Speakers will include Senator Donald R. "Don" Cravins, Jr., Representative Sydnie Mae Durand, UMC Hospital Administrator Larry Dorsey, and UMC Medical Director Dr. James Falterman, Jr.

"Our emergency department staff has provided quality health care under less than ideal conditions for a long time," said Dr. Michael Butler, acting chief executive officer for the LSU Health Care Services Division. "The expansion will give the citizens of Acadiana a superior facility to match the high quality care that University Medical Center provides."

Studies indicate that the current area of the emergency department, about 5,000 square feet, is not adequate for its 42,000 patients a year. Instead, for that number of patients, the emergency department should be at least 16,000 square feet, which is the amount of space that the expansion will provide.

The current space, which is extremely inefficient, increases patient wait time to see a physician, and the growing number of psychiatric patients in the emergency department contributes to this increase. The use of the department by psychiatric patients also leads to an escalating number of ambulance diversions.

To meet these demands, UMC implemented a quality improvement initiative in 1995 and reduced wait times, but the lack of space hinders further improvement.

"The expansion will allow us to meet national benchmarks in the provision of prompt emergency care," said Larry Dorsey, UMC hospital administrator. "A well-designed emergency department promotes efficient patient flow and good care, and our expansion will do that."

The expansion will occur in segments, permitting the ongoing provision of emergency care, and will meet regulatory standards. Once completed, the space will include examination rooms; trauma rooms; orthopedic rooms; holding and observation areas; triage; registration and isolation rooms; radiology, minor-procedure, and ophthalmology; a nurses station; waiting room; patient conference room; physician work station; supply room; common areas and an ambulance ramp.

The fifth largest public hospital system in the country, the LSU Health Care Services Division is the medical provider for almost 20% of Louisiana's population. It has over 60,000 admissions, 350,000 patient days, 1 million outpatient visits, and over 350,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1700 residents from the LSU and Tulane schools of medicine and Ochsner Health System and 4,000 nurses and allied health students from many colleges and universities are trained in LSU HCSD facilities.

LSU HCSD is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana and provides over 95% of the health care for Louisiana's prisoners. LSU hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.6 billion in asset business activity, \$918 million in personal earnings, and support over 10,000 jobs.

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