

For Immediate Release

Earl K. Long Medical Center Wins Multiple Awards at LSU Forum

Dr. Jolene Johnson Receives CMO Award Asthma and Foot Programs Are Among the Best

Baton Rouge (February 18, 2008) – The LSU Health Care Services Division (HCSD) awarded staff of Earl K. Long Medical Center (EKLMC) multiple awards for quality health care at the 11th annual LSU HCSD Health Care Effectiveness Forum, entitled “Eliminating Disparities and Improving Access to Relationship-Centered Care,” in Baton Rouge, La.

Dr. Michael Kaiser, HCSD acting chief medical officer, presented the 2008 Chief Medical Officer award to Dr. Jolene Johnson, associate professor of internal medicine, EKLMC, and LSU HCSD statewide diabetes disease management leader. The award is given for superior performance and dedication to the provision of quality health care. Dr. Johnson was also a presenter at the forum discussing with others ways in which her program has improved since its inception ten years ago.

“One of the hardest jobs is to be a clinical lead, trying to drive improvements in seven hospitals while supervising a program in your own hospital,” he said in presenting the award to Dr. Johnson. “She takes a holistic view of patient care.” He praised her accomplishments as a physician who sees both the large and the small picture, the diabetes management program as a whole, and the person with diabetes as an individual.

The 2008 TRRAQSSS Award for the most distinguished program was given to the LSU Diabetic Foot Program, which has created a statewide program with 100 percent access and has given 133 telemedicine clinics since 2001. Each HCSD hospital has specialists at Earl K. Long Medical Center on whom they can rely. “The program is a real boost to reduce the number of amputations in our state,” Dr. Michael Butler, acting HCSD CEO, said.

The 2008 TRRAQSSS First Place Award for clinical excellence was given to the Earl K. Long Medical Center Asthma Program. The program has shown measurable results in the improvement in the overall quality of life for patients with asthma. “The program has reduced emergency department visits,” Dr. Butler said. Improving the quality of patients’ lives and keeping them out of the hospital are well worth recognition.

The TRRAQSSS Award is given to a program that significantly improves any dimension of the core components of HCSD’s mission: teaching, revenue, research, access, quality, service, stakeholder satisfaction, or safety. The award recognizes an excellent collective effort or project, must be at or significantly associated with an HCSD facility, must be able to show measurable benefits and outcomes, and must be able to be replicated. The name of the award is the acronym of the items in the aforementioned series, and the award is given based on competitive applications submitted by the hospitals.

EKLMC also received the first place award for clinical excellence in asthma care, the second place award for most improved cancer screening program, and recognition for improvements in its program to assess patient satisfaction.

The seven hospitals of LSU HCSD were eligible for the awards.

The LSU Health System is one of the largest public health care delivery systems in the country. 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 facilities.

LSU is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana. 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.

For more information, contact Marvin McGraw, Director of Communications and Media Relations, LSU Health Care Services Division, 225.922.1424 or mmcgra@lsuhsc.edu.

