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**For Immediate Release**  
**March 26, 2007**

## **LSU Health System Surgical Facility Opens, Offering Outpatient Services and Expanding Access to Health Care**

**Baton Rouge (March 26, 2007)** –The LSU Health System Surgical Facility, 9032 Perkins Road, in Baton Rouge, is opening for the provision of ambulatory surgeries and procedures in the areas of adult and pediatric otorhinolaryngology, gynecology, orthopedics, endoscopy, diagnostic radiology and general surgery.

A press conference and ribbon-cutting for the opening will be held Thursday, March 27, 2008, 10:30 a.m., at the facility. Tours will be given after the ceremony.

“The provision of quality comprehensive health care services is an ongoing commitment that LSU has to Louisiana citizens,” said Dr. Fred Cerise, LSU System vice president for health affairs and medical education. “The LSU Health System Surgical Facility with its dedicated staff ensures that LSU meets this commitment.”

The 49,641 square foot facility and accompanying 7,000 square foot office building will allow LSU’s Earl K. Long Medical Center to strengthen services it already offers. EKLMC will redirect less acute patients to the ambulatory surgical facility, which will increase access and reduce wait times for acute inpatients and emergency department patients at the EKLMC main campus and for less acute patients at the outpatient facility.

“The outpatient surgical services of the facility is another instance of LSU obtaining the most value for quality health care,” said Dr. Michael Butler, acting CEO of the LSU Health Care Services Division. “It gives LSU another opportunity to provide excellent services at the best cost possible.”

The ambulatory facility will have four surgical suites and two procedure rooms. It will have a full radiology department with MRI and CT, which will double current access for EKLMC outpatient populations.

“By opening an ambulatory surgery and diagnostic center, we are decreasing competition for the operating rooms at the main campus that are mainly being used for acute complex cases,” said Dr. Kathy Viator, acting EKLMC hospital administrator. “The separation will allow improved access and timeliness.”

The facility will have a staff of 60 to 75 for full operation and is on a bus line. An outpatient facility exclusively, it does not have an emergency room.

In fulfillment of its mission of medical education, EKLMC will also provide medical training at the ambulatory facility. The facility will be used for clinical education of residents, nursing, and allied health students.

It will have a fully equipped endoscopic training lab with anatomic models for surgical resident training. The surgical residency chief will operate and oversee the lab.

LSU completed the purchase of the facility from Dynacq Healthcare Inc. on December 17, 2007, for \$17,600,000. The purchase included the two buildings, all furniture, beds, monitors, and ancillary equipment. LSU purchased the radiology equipment separately.

Structurally sound and in good repair, the facility required little to resume service, but LSU needed to meet all Department of Health and Hospitals licensure and regulatory requirements as well as state fire marshall requirements. LSU also had to implement policy, procedure and product standardization.

The facility hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

The outpatient surgical facility increases in the community the health-care access of EKLMC, which has the LSU Mid-City Clinic and primary care clinics in the Jewel Newman and Dr. Leo S. Butler community centers. The North Baton Rouge Clinic is also under construction and will offer comprehensive primary care for adults.

The LSU Health Care 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.

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