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## **Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center Initiates New Internal Medicine Residency Training Program**

**Baton Rouge (October 20, 2008)** – Leonard J. Chabert Medical Center (LJCMC) in Houma, La., has begun a new Internal Medicine Residency Training Program with full accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Since 2000, the ACGME has accredited only four new programs in internal medicine in the South and 16 nationwide. ACGME has also given institutional accreditation to LJCMC, permitting it to form new residency programs in the future.

“The internal medicine residency training program will allow us to expand our dual missions of medical education and quality health care,” said Rhonda Green, LJCMC hospital administrator. “At the same time, the program will cultivate new physicians for the region.”

Studies have shown that a physician will likely remain within a 50 to 100 mile radius of where the physician completed residency training, providing health care and an economic stimulus to the region. The Terrebonne/Lafourche area anticipates a physician shortage, particularly in primary care and internal medicine.

To receive accreditation for the program, LJCMC hired faculty including its program director, associate program director, residency and institutional coordinator, and others in key areas such as pulmonary critical care. Dr. Dayton Daberkow II, formerly the LSU program director in New Orleans for 12 years, is the LJCMC program director.

Three residents were accepted for the first year of the three-year program, which began July 1, 2008. Next year eight will be accepted. Ultimately 24 residents will be in training simultaneously.

Sixty percent of the time residents will see patients in the hospital; 40 percent of the time, they will practice in LJCMC ambulatory clinics. Residents have already gotten unique training: in the wake of Hurricane Gustav, they worked with the Disaster Medical Assistance Team and on strike teams going into the community to provide care.

The program has a budget of about \$1.7 million for administrative and recruiting expenses, residency and clinical salaries, and yearly accreditation fees. To accommodate the program, LJCMC constructed new call rooms and a residency lounge with lockers and computers.

An internal medicine specialist, or internist, is the nonsurgical physician for adults and can practice general internal medicine, either inpatient or outpatient or both. The internist may also receive additional training in the internal medicine subspecialties of cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonary medicine, critical care medicine, hematology, oncology, infectious diseases, rheumatology, endocrinology, nephrology, and geriatrics.

To be considered for the LJCMC internal medicine program, applicants must have graduated from an accredited medical school and chosen internal medicine as their specialty. After completing the program, residents will be eligible to take the Internal Medicine Board Examination sponsored by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

LJCMC is a major training site for medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, laboratory and radiology technology, social services, nutrition, physician assistants, and emergency medical technicians.

The LSU Health System Health Care Services Division is one of the largest public health care delivery systems in the country. It has over 31,000 admissions, 180,000 patient days, 981,000 outpatient visits, and over 270,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1100 residents and fellows from the LSU and Tulane Schools of Medicine and Ochsner Health System and 2,200 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 HCSD hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.4 billion in asset business activity, \$568 million in personal earnings, and generate over 12,000 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](mailto:mmcgra@lsuhsc.edu).