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Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center's HIV/AIDS Doctor Named to 2008 Who's Who in Infection Prevention

INDEPENDENCE – *Infection Control Today*, a health-care journal for infectious disease professionals named Dr. Walter Campbell, Jr., to Who's Who in Infection Prevention for 2008. Dr. Campbell is one of only eighteen practitioners selected for this award from nationwide nominations submitted by their infection control peers. Dr. Campbell directs the Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center (LKRMC) Infection Control program, where he primarily treats patients with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C.

Dr. Campbell has been instrumental in the implementation at LKRMC of the new OraQuick rapid HIV testing protocol that is now being offered to all LKRMC emergency-room patients. This test, administered by swabbing the inside of the patient's mouth, yields results in as little as 20 to 30 minutes. Getting the results quicker means patients know their status almost immediately and can begin treatment sooner, which will help to slow the spread of this disease.

Although Dr. Campbell's patient load averages approximately 200 HIV/AIDS patients and 80 hepatitis C patients monthly, he still manages to take time to explain to patients the diseases, the impact of the diseases on the patients and to educate the patients on disease management.

"He is the kind of doctor who will spend an hour with you if necessary to diagnose, talk, encourage or just plain let you gripe," says La'Nette T. Morris, LPN II, who nominated Dr. Campbell along with colleague Joanne Hamm, administrative assistant. "His compassion with the HIV/AIDS patients he works with is amazing. He works at two different hospitals, taking call duty, doing all critical labs on his patients, being at the clinics two days a week, and in general, just being the doctor everyone adores!"

In Tangipahoa parish, 224 persons are living with HIV/AIDS. In Region IX, which encompasses Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes, 860 persons are living with HIV/AIDS, according to the Louisiana Office of Public Health.

"Patients with HIV/AIDS or other illnesses who come to our facility for services are treated with the best quality healthcare available regardless of their ability to pay or not," said Dr. Kathleen Willis, LKRMC medical director. "Having a dedicated physician like Dr. Campbell on our team is an invaluable asset to our facility and to the LSU Health System as a whole."

Dr. Campbell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Florida A&M University and a Medical Doctorate degree from the University of Florida – College of Medicine. He completed both his Internal Medicine Residency and his Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Tulane University – School of Medicine in New Orleans. A member of the Southern Medical Association, he is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. For more information on HIV/AIDS services or any other services offered at LKRMC, contact the Specialty Clinic at (985) 878-1681 or visit our website at www.lsuhs hospitals.org.