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Level 1 Trauma Center Gives Back to the Community During Mardi Gras *Medical Services Available at 1927 Tulane Avenue*

Baton Rouge (February 20, 2009) – Emergency Department overload is a major problem for the already full emergency departments (EDs) in all of the hospitals during Mardi Gras in the greater New Orleans area. Most of the patients coming into the EDs have only minor complaints but will occupy bed space and take the time of patient care providers.

To relieve this problem during the 2009 Mardi Gras weekend and on Mardi Gras day and to make the best use of ED space and personnel for sicker patients and trauma patients, the Interim LSU Public Hospital Level 1 Trauma Center has taken a lead on providing care for the Mardi Gras Temporary Urgent Care Center (MGTUCC).

The Trauma Center will facilitate the urgent care center by handling minor medical and trauma emergencies at its tent location at 1927 Tulane Avenue.

The facility will be staffed by board-certified emergency physicians, residents, registered nurses, paramedics, and EMTs. If a patient seen at the medical tent requires a higher level of care or requires x-rays, a fully staffed ambulance will be available to transport the patient to the Trauma Center.

The American College of Surgeons believes that a trauma center has a special obligation to the community by participating in disaster preparation and management. Mardi Gras in New Orleans is a major tourist attraction that brings large crowds to the city. The MGTUCC will help relieve area hospitals of minor cases that can potentially fill up their EDs. The Trauma Center has accepted the challenge of being the leader in this vital endeavor.

The LSU Health System - Health Care Services Division is one of the largest public health care delivery systems in the country. It has over 35,000 inpatient admissions, nearly 196,000 inpatient days, 515,500 outpatient visits, 894,000 outpatient encounters, and nearly 244,000 emergency department visits. Each year nearly 500 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.

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