This Week at MCL

A Memorandum to the Employees of The Medical Center of Louisiana, New Orleans
Charity Hospital Campus ▪ University Hospital Campus

November 29-December 5, 2004

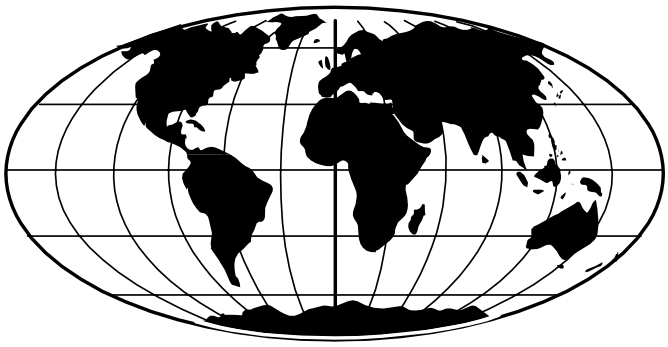
2004 "We Cherish These Employees" Honorees Feted!

Above, *Dr. Dwayne Thomas, CEO*, proudly surrounds 2004's 40-Plus honorees at the banquet in their honor on November 6 on University Campus. In the foreground are, left to right, *Karen Foto*, Fiscal Coding, *Lodonia Michel*, Pathology, and *Mary "Kevie" Richardson*, Surgical Services; in back of Dr. Thomas, *Goldie Huguenel*, Emergency Medicine-Adult, and *Frank Sparks*, Orthopedics. Another honoree, *Jane Baker-Chaffin*, Anesthesiology, was unable to attend.

The program to honor employees who reach the 40-year mark of service was inaugurated last year. A "We Cherish These Employees" picture-plaque gallery of those holding the honor is located on the first floor of each hospital campus.

For the 2004 occasion, the auditorium was turned into an eloquent fall season setting. The plaques were unveiled on University Campus during an evening that included dinner and music by local musician *Mike Lemmlier*. The event took on special meaning as each honoree shared the festivities with invited family and friends.

All the 40-Plus honorees were also the top honorees at the Service Awards Breakfast on November 18. We applaud each of them for reaching both of these distinctions in 2004!



MCL Observes World AIDS Day.

Approximately 24,000 people have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana as of December 2003. In 2002, Louisiana ranked fifth in state AIDS-related case rates. In that same year, there were 1,228 new HIV/AIDS cases in Louisiana.

According to UNAIDS, approximately half of all HIV-positive people in the world are female. It is estimated that women and girls are 2.5 times more likely to contract HIV than males. In New Orleans, at the Medical Center of Louisiana HIV Outpatient (HOP) Clinic, about 34.7 percent of the patients are women.

In observance of World AIDS Day, and keeping in line with this year's theme of *Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS*, the MCL HIV Strategy Group, HOP, and 9 West have organized an outdoor event dedicated to providing the education necessary to combat these staggering statistics. The event will take place on Friday, December 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the front lawn of Charity Campus.

All MCL staff is invited to attend and encouraged to show their recognition of this event by wearing red shirts (no t-shirts) on that day.

Juliette Scott, who is HIV-positive and has become an advocate for those infected and living with this disease, will be the honoree for the event. She receives treatment at MCL's HOP Clinic and will be available to share her touching story.

For more information about this event, please contact ***Jeré Hales*** at 2-0658 or 477-8303.

Surely it can't be tax time yet!

It surely can, and almost is! The time to file your 2004 taxes is fast approaching. To assure that you receive your 2004 W-2 on time Human Resources must have your correct address. All W-2s are mailed from the Payroll Office in Shreveport to your current address in the PeopleSoft system. If you are not receiving your payroll check advice (yellow statement for employees with Direct Deposit) and have moved recently, please go to Human Resources, Butterworth Building, either room 404 or 405, and update your address. The deadline for doing so is Thursday, December 16.

Applause! Applause!

Dr. Gabriel Tender, LSU Chief Neuro-surgery Resident, Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, left, spent eight months of his research year at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. While there, one of the projects he worked on was the development of new therapies for chronic pain. He reports, "We tested a new substance called resiniferatoxin, which selectively destroys the neurons mediating chronic pain. It worked very well in eliminating neuropathic pain in monkeys; the next step is human trials for the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia and possibly chronic low back pain." The paper summarizing Dr. Gabriel's work, "Selective Ablation of Vanilloid Receptor 1 Positive Nociceptive Neurons for Elimination of Hyperalgesia and Neuropathic Pain," will be published in the February 2005 edition of *Journal of Neurosurgery*. The paper has won the Resident Award, the most prestigious award from the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, at its 54th annual meeting in San Francisco this year, and also the American Academy Honorable Mention Award in Dresden, Germany.

▪ ***Registered Dietitians Katherine Marengo, Cara Osgood and Lori Riviere*** have achieved the title "Certified Nutrition Support Dietitian" (CNSD). They passed a prestigious, nationally recognized nutrition support certification, sponsored by the American Society of Enteral and Parenental Nutrition. ***Rosetta Danigole, RD,*** Chief Clinical Dietitian, commends their achievement and explains that certification in this area supports the trauma areas at MCL by providing dietitians who have expert knowledge and skills in nutrition support.

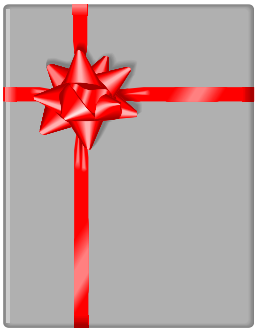
Happenings.

▪ **Breast Cancer Support Group.** November 30, 4-5:30 p.m., 4th floor classroom, University Campus. Offered by the staff of MCL Occupational Therapy, Rehabilitation Services. Open to anyone who has or has

had breast cancer and their family members. For more information call 2-3122.

▪ **The ABCs of Critical Care.** 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 9th floor, Charity, Education Department. December 1, "Shocking Back to Reality: Dysrhythmias & Treatment, Code Blue & Equipment Use," with ***RNs Alica Dean, Patty Dougherty and Dorothy Naquin-Plaisance***; December 6, "Surf's Up! Riding the Hemodynamic Wave: Cardiac Assessment, Hemodynamic Monitoring, Equipment Use, Cardiogenic & Septic Shock," with ***RNs Toni Rougeou and Todd Tartavoulle***; December 7, "Head and Shoulders Above the Rest: Neuro Assessment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Aneurysms, Stroke & ICP Management," with ***RNs Victoria Cochran and Jody Zanca.*** Each 8.7 contact hours. To register contact ***Carolyn Robinson-Thomas*** at crobin5@lushsc.edu or 2-5268. Cost: $10 per class for MCL employees; $45 for non-employees.

▪ **LSU/Tulane Joint Grand Rounds.** December 1, noon-1 p.m., Tulane Medical School auditorium, 1st floor, 1430 Tulane Avenue. "Heredity Breast Cancer," presented by ***Dr. Premila Malhotra***, Fellow, Section of Hematology/Oncology, Tulane, and discussed by ***Diptasri Mandal, PhD***, Assistant Professor and Graduate Student Coordinator, Department of Genetics, LSUHSC, and ***Dr. Melissa Brammer***, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Section of Hematology/Oncology, Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Tulane.



▪ **Pre-Holiday Craft Sale.** December 7 & 8, noon-4:30 p.m., LSU lobby, 1542 Tulane. Sponsored by Occupational Therapy Department, Mental Health Services. To support the outpatient transportation fund. (This is not the department's regular plant and craft sale.)

▪ "**Severe Head Injury Management: A Multi-Modality Approach & The Impact of Brain Tissue Oxygen Monitoring."** December 9, 8-11:30 a.m., Charity auditorium. No fee; breakfast provided. With ***Eileen Malong-Wilensky, RN, MSN, CRNP***, Director of Neurosurgery Clinical Research Division and CRNP/PA Program, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. 3.5 contact hours provided by Integra NeuroSciences. Space limited; register by December 2 to ***Troy Wells*** on e-mail or call her at 2-0491.

▪ **Hazardous Material Team Training.** December 13, University auditorium; December 14, Charity auditorium. The two-day session covers skills and knowledge required to be a HazMat Team member. 16.8 contact hours/CEUs for RNs, radiology techs and respiratory therapists. Register in Staff Development, 9 center, Charity Campus. For further details call ***Tim Butcher*** at 2-2687.

▪ **Asthma Group Session.** Tuesdays, 2-3 p.m., General Clinical Research Unit (GCRU), 5 East, Charity Campus. Bring your asthma medications and devices, including inhalers, peak flow meters and spacers; peak flow meters and spacers will be provided if you do not have your own. Anyone with asthma welcomed. Free, but please call ***Adonica Webb*** at 574-1767 or 2-0237 if you plan to attend.

▪ **Exercise Class.** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Education, 9 center, Charity Campus. For more details contact ***Paul Hildreth*** via e-mail.

▪ **Outpatient Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)/ Disease Management Teaching Session.** Wednesday, 8-9 a.m. and Thursday, 1-2 p.m., Cardiovascular Clinic, 2025 Gravier Street, room 601. Those who receive their medical care at MCL and have had their diagnosis verified by an echocardiogram are welcome. Please bring all of your medications to class. For info call ***Patsy*** or ***Yolanda*** at 2-3112. Physicians and medical providers **only** can call 903-4652 (this is not a triage line) to refer hospitalized patients who have been evaluated in our Emergency Department to ensure speedy follow- up in the CHF Clinic.

▪ **LSU/Tulane Multidisciplinary Tumor Board Meeting.** Each Friday, noon-1 p.m., 1542 Tulane Avenue, room 710. Physicians wishing to present a case should call ***Nicole Chatelain,*** 568-4765.

▪ **Yoplait Savings Lids to Saving Lives Program.** Now through December 20. Please drop off your clean pink Yoplait lids in the office of ***Teresa Krutzfeldt***, 4th floor, University Campus, across from the auditorium, or call ***Colleen Lemoine*** at 2-3767 to arrange to have them picked up. Yoplait will donate 10 cents for each lid up to $1.2 million to help fight breast cancer.

▪ **Employee Assistance Programs.** All the following groups meet at LSU Lions Clinic, 2020 Gravier Street, 5th floor. Call 568-3931 with questions or for full details: ***Co-dependency Anonymous***, Mondays at noon, free; ***AA***, Tuesdays at noon, free; and the ***Chemical Dependency Education Group*** for those who may be chemically dependent or have family members who are, Thursdays, 4-5 p.m., $10 per group period.

A Lasting & Loving Image of SANE.

Judy Reagan, left and Alice Shaffer

Two local artists, ***Judy Reagan*** and ***Alice Shaffer***, teamed to create a pin that represents the work of those who make up the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program of the Medical Center of Louisiana.

On the back of the pin card is written, "We chose the crazy quilt design for the SANE pin because the evolution of these quilts is a journey illustrating the triumph of women's imagination and ingenuity in the face of unimaginable trials and tribulations. When clothing and coverlets brought to the New World began to wear out, worn parts were cut away and useful pieces combined. From these odds and ends the crazy quilt came into being. No two were alike, but each one provided the warmth to survive the harsh winters."

Alice states that she sees the role of the SANE as taking pieces of lives fragmented by sexual assault and helping survivors begin to piece these together to re-create a beautiful life.

Each pin is handmade and unique and was created for the SANEs as a fundraiser and as a lasting tribute to the work they do and the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. The SANEs are deeply touched and grateful for the energy and talents of these two local artists who were inspired by the SANE program of MCL. If you are interested in purchasing a pin for a $15 donation to the SANE program, please contact ***Ecoee Rooney*** (Joan Rooney) or ***Deb Travis*** (Deborah T. Ratterree) on e-mail. Since the program was started in spring 2000, our nurses have helped approximately 1,200 patients.

(MCL Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners are *Angelique Bello, Cindy Caron, Sonya Hardy, Jean Holland, Lisa James, Sharon Kimmel, Kathleen Langan, Betty Jo Mitchell, Sherri Pellagalle, Wanda Pezant, Evelyne Soboloff, Debbie Ratterree-Travis, Ecoee Rooney, Jeanne Sumestre* and *Luann Wenthold*.)

From the Mailbox.

It was a pleasure working with the Medical Center of Louisiana Case Management staff when securing home health care for my nephew, David Goudeau. Everyone, including ***Linda Llopis***, was so patient and knowledgeable. They even followed up to make sure that all had gone as promised. It is good to have people like them in our corner when we are sick or when we have a family member who is sick. Our sincere gratitude to all who were involved in our case.

– *Cathy G. Kaboul*

This Week at MCL is published through the Medical Center of Louisiana Provider Relations & Marketing Department, ***Jeré Hales***, Director, and ***Lynn Lorando***, Editor. The editor's office is presently located in the Butterworth Building, 1541 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, 70112; the director's office is in room 711, University Medical Office Building. Unless otherwise announced, the deadline for the following week's issue is 5 p.m. Monday. All items submitted must have prior supervisory approval. Thank you.