

# THIS WEEK

## INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CRISIS MANAGEMENT: PREVENTING OR RESPONDING TO DISASTERS



Above: International guests of the U.S. Department of State visited Interim LSU Public Hospital (ILH) to meet with members of the ILH Emergency Management Team. The purpose of their visit was to learn from our experience during Hurricane Katrina and see the measures that we have taken in the event that we face another disaster.

The New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council arranged, for the group, the tour of our facility. Those who met with the group from ILH were: Bob Arnold, Director Emergency Management; James Aiken, MD, Emergency Medicine, Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness; Adler Voltaire, CAO and Chief Kenneth Scott, Director of Public Safety.



**Above: Ms. Murshida Akhter from Bangladesh asked Dr. Aiken about the special needs of evaluating infants during a disaster such as the flood resulting from Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Akhter is the manager of the Capacity Building, Save the Children US.**

Those visiting from various countries were; from Bangladesh, Ms. Murshida Akhter, Manager, Capacity Building, Save the Children U.S.; from Fiji; Mr. Anthony Blake, Project Manager, National Disaster Management Office; from Hong Kong; Mr. Wai Hon "Dan" NG, Chief Inspector, Organized Crime and Triad Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force; from India, Mr. Madhu Kadam, Deputy Divisional Warden, Mumbai Civil Defense Corps; from Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Taalaigul Sabyrbekova, Chair, Ergene Foundation; From Nepal, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director, National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal; from Sri Lanka, Ms. Pushpa Zoysa, Training Coordinator, Disaster Management, and Triage Team Leader, Accident and Emergency Department, National Hospital; from Taiwan, Mr. Chien-Chen "James" Chen, Director, Foreign Affairs Division, Kaohsiung City Police Department and from Tajikistan, Mr. Akhliddin Mirzoev, Head of Section, Department of International Cooperation, State Committee on Emergencies and Civil Defense.

# Get Ready for Heart Walk 2010

The American Red Cross held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual New Orleans Start! Heart Walk Community Kick-off this week at the Saints Training Facility. Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand, this year's New Orleans Heart Walk Chairman offered a motivational speech as to why we should all be involved in raising money for the AHA saying, "We all know someone who has been affected by heart disease and the money raised in this campaign will go towards research to combat this disease."

PAGE 2 OF 4



## A Drew Brees signed football.

**Right: Brittany Gay with the American Heart Association holds a football that is signed by Drew Brees! More information will follow as to how you might become the lucky winner of this valued gift!**

Pat Johnson's, The Biggest Loser Team has gotten off to a running start this year. They have already raised \$4,328.92 for this year's Heart Walk campaign. To support The Biggest Loser Team go to [www.neworleansheartwalk.org](http://www.neworleansheartwalk.org) and click on the #1 ranked team or click on the ILH Public Hospital and select from other early established ILH teams.

For information on becoming a Heart Walk Team Leader contact:

Ecoee Rooney, MSN, RN, ILH Heart Walk Team Captain at [jroone@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:jroone@lsuhsc.edu)

More will follow soon on the years Heart Walk 2010 campaign.

## New Initiative to Address Barriers to Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Louisiana

The Louisiana Community AIDS Partnership (LCAP), an affiliated program of the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI), has announced the official launch of its Positive Charge Initiative, a \$1.2 million, three-year grant program aimed at breaking down the barriers that prevent people living with HIV/AIDS from receiving proper care, treatment and necessary support.

Louisiana's Positive Charge Initiative is comprised of public-private partnerships that include the Louisiana Office of Public Health HIV/AIDS Program (OPH-HAP), Louisiana Office of Public Health STD Control Program, Louisiana State University Health Care Services Division, NO/AIDS Task Force, Acadiana Cares, Capital Area Reentry Program, Inc. (CARP), St. John #5/Camp ACE, Interim LSU Public Hospital's HIV/AIDS Outpatient Clinic, N'R Peace, Orleans Parish Prison (OPP) and the Earl K. Long Medical Center's Early Intervention Clinic (EKL-EIC).

Louisiana's Positive Charge Initiative is designed to meet the unique needs of individuals living with HIV and will be implemented in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport. All of these locations have high HIV and AIDS case rates, a large population of HIV positive persons not receiving care.

Over the course of the next three years, the initiative aims to: Increase the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS who receive care by improving linkages to medical care and supportive services; work together with the public hospital system, regional STD clinics, and Orleans Parish Prison to help individuals who are newly diagnosed with HIV get into care; Increase the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS, who have disconnected from care get back into a care environment that meets their continuing needs and provide interventions that are implemented and led by HIV positive individuals, who will act as peer health case managers

According to 2008 statistics released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Louisiana ranked fourth in the nation for AIDS case rates and 41 percent of individuals living with HIV/AIDS are not in care. Specifically, Baton Rouge and Greater New Orleans continue to lead the rest of the state in all HIV/AIDS-related rates. The Baton Rouge metropolitan area ranks second in the nation in 2008 estimated AIDS case rates. New Orleans ranks No. 3.

"It's clear that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is having a tremendous impact on Louisiana and there is a large part of the HIV/AIDS population that is living with the disease without medical care and treatment. The top priority of the Positive Charge Initiative is to get people with HIV into the care they need as quickly as possible."

Susan Bergson, Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI)

# INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT: PREVENTING OR RESPONDING TO DISASTERS

**Right: Bob Arnold, Director Emergency Management explains to our international visitors how the flood gates at 2025 Gravier Street work.**

**Below: Dr. Aiken, Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness takes the guests through the ILH Emergency Department and shows them Trauma Room 4.**

**Below: Wearing yellow in the foreground of the photo is Ms. Pushpa Zoysa, a triage Team Leader at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. Ms. Zoysa said her hospital has 3,000 beds with a staff of 7,000.**



The delegation from South and Central Asia were interested in all areas of crisis management. Mr. Wai Hon "Dan" NG, Chief Inspector, Organized Crime and Triad Bureau, Hong Kong Police Force and Mr. Chien-Chen "James" CHEN, Director, Foreign Affairs Division, Kaohsiung City Police Department and from Tajikistan questioned Chief Scott on the issue of maintaining civil order during a disaster. The Code Gray policy was reviewed with the guests and they were taken to our Emergency Communication room where our HAM radio system was explained. (Two HAM radios were purchased post-Katrina.)

Above: Dr. Aiken gave an overview of the hospital's emergency preparedness program such as scenario driven disaster planning and its internal patient evacuation plan as well as the New Orleans community's Medical Institutional Evacuation Plan, both developed after Hurricane Katrina. The group also discussed the hospital's training programs and involvement in local and state hospital emergency management activities. This included integrated communication capabilities and yearly drills.



**Left: On July 23, 2010, a severe weather alert was called. Seated center: Dr. James Aiken, MD, Emergency Medicine, Director for Emergency Preparedness; Adler Voltaire, ACO Interim LSU Public Hospital. Standing center: Bob Arnold, Director Emergency Management and to the right, Sean Hardy, MD, Clinical Director of Emergency Preparedness.**

**On August 8th, all eyes were on Tropical Depression #5.**

Be a part of the Emergency Management Team.  
Become a HAM Operator. (see page 4)



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## CRISIS MANAGEMENT: PREVENTING OR RESPONDING TO DISASTERS

PAGE 4 OF 4

Upon returning to Nepal, Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Deputy Executive Director National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET) E-mailed the following thoughts to me.

*"I was impressed by the openness and attentiveness to the visiting team given by senior staff of the hospital. I could learn many critical aspects of hospital emergency preparedness which I believe are equally useful for my country also. The lessons learned after Hurricane Katrina have been well considered. The hospital has made changes in the entire system of emergency preparedness such as construction of flood gates, shifting of critical facilities from the basement, contracts for the emergency evacuation and many. Such a major improvement in the system within this short period is very impressive. I believe it required a lot of professional exercise. I would suggest relevant agencies back in my country to establish contacts with ILH to learn more.*

*Thanks and best regards,"*

*Surya*

To share information with THIS WEEK contact: Catherine Appe at:

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Be a part of the Emergency Management Team.

Become a HAM Operator.

A major problem during Hurricane Katrina was poor communication with the sister hospitals and with outside agencies. To address this problem, ILH purchased two HAM radios. Amateur radio provides a back-up for when conventional communication lines are out of service. Our sister hospital, University Medical Center at Lafayette, has a wonderful webpage including HAM information, study guides and the process of becoming a HAM Operator. Go to: <http://umc-net/UmcHamRadio/HamRadioIntro.htm>

## Ask The Doctor, with Dr. Mia Harris



Above left: On Thursday, July 29, Gail Gibson, RN, ANA, Women's Services went on Ask The Doctor to remind pregnant women that ILH will end its labor and delivery services beginning August 1. She said the nurseries, which include its Well Newborn Nursery, Intermediate Care Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery will be closed as well. Ms. Gibson explained to the listeners that LSU moved its labor and delivery services to Touro Infirmary Hospital, 1401 Foucher Street, in New Orleans and that Tulane moved its labor and delivery services to Tulane Lakeside Hospital, 4700 I-10 Service Road, in Metairie. Ms. Gibson said that the LSU OB/GYN program will continue its clinic at 2100 Perdido Street and its OB/GYN residency training program but that Tulane will discontinue its outpatient OB clinics at ILH and will have its outpatient clinic near Lakeside Hospital.

Above right: Andrea Adams, RN, LSU DePaul Campus was Dr. Harris' guest on August 5, to discuss National Suicide Prevention Week recognized from Aug 5-11. Ms. Adams went over the list of warning signs that one might see in a person contemplating suicide. She explained the difference between feeling what is commonly recognized as "the blues" and being clinically depressed. Ms. Adams stressed that help is available and encouraged listeners to not feel a sense of shame that continues to be associated with any type of mental illness.

**Dr. Mia Harris can be heard every Thursday on WBOK, channel 1230AM, from noon to 12:30 p.m.**

THIS WEEK thanks Peggy Vicknair, Laurie Smith & Donna Hayes for their support.

