JOINT VENTURE ANNOUNCEMENT CHARTS BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE’S FUTURE

Jan. 7 was an important day for Baylor College of Medicine.

On that day we announced a joint venture with CHI St. Luke’s Health, the umbrella group for all of the St. Luke’s Hospital properties, purchased by Catholic Health Initiatives a year ago.

As you know, Baylor has been determined to chart a path for its adult private clinical mission that allows it to determine its own future with a committed partner. This joint venture, in which Baylor is co-owner with shared governance in a new hospital on the McNair Campus, as well as the existing St. Luke’s Hospital in the Texas Medical Center, is the solution and our partner is a perfect fit. Both hospitals are called Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, and identified by location.

Reaction to the announcement has been very positive.

In a series of Town Hall style meetings with faculty, staff and students in the days following the announcement, it was clear that the joint venture was welcomed news for the Baylor Community.

For the first time, Baylor will have a stake in its own private adult teaching hospital. The joint venture provides us with 50-50 governance with CHI St. Luke’s. That is important in that we not only share in the rewards but also the risks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

ALLIED HEALTH STUDENTS CELEBRATE NEW BEGINNINGS

Students in Baylor College of Medicine’s School of Allied Health Sciences are celebrating not just the new year but also the launch of their professional careers after participating in commencement last month.

The annual School of Allied Health Sciences Commencement was held Saturday, Dec. 7, at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. Master of Science degrees were conferred to 35 physician assistant students and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees to 16 nurse anesthesia students.

The Commencement address was given by Dr. Alfred Sadler, President of the Physician Assistant History Society Board of Trustees and co-author of “The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History.” Dr. David Holcomb, Dean of the School of Allied Health Sciences, presided at the ceremony.

For a list of Allied Health academic and research award winners and more photos from recent events, see the BCM Family newsletter.
After attending a lecture at BCM by photographer Rick Guidotti, who strives to break down perceptions of people with genetic conditions through his work, medical student Chaya Murali was inspired to use creativity in another way to impact people with genetic diseases.

She launched Get it Write, a program that uses creative writing to help people with genetic disorders express their feelings and share their experiences. Until recently, the Get it Write workshops have focused on children. But last month, Murali held a Get it Write workshop primarily for adults.

“Working with adults is a bit different than with children,” she notes. “For one thing, adults need less encouragement to express themselves through writing. She gave them several topics about which to write, including "Write about a time you were brave," "Tell me about who you admire," and "How has having the syndrome affected your life."

By the end of the session, everyone in attendance had shared something they wrote with the rest of the group.

“One of the pieces shared aloud was written by a man whose wife has Gorlin syndrome, and he was at his first support-group meeting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
It is in the best interest of all of the Baylor community for this to be a successful venture, and we will all work to make sure that it is.

When I recruited Wayne Keathley to Baylor a year ago to oversee the development of the McNair Campus and our clinical network, it was because I knew how good he was as developing a premier program.

He will do an outstanding job as the first president of Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, both the existing campus on Bertner Street and the new hospital on the McNair Campus. We are confident that when the hospital opens in 2015, it will quickly be seen as a place for extraordinary patient care.

The joint venture also includes other CHI St. Luke's facilities inside the 610 Loop.

It excludes Baylor’s outpatient clinics on the McNair Campus and at the Baylor Clinic. So what does that mean for you? If you currently see a Baylor doctor at the Baylor Clinic, the Jamail Specialty Care Center, the outpatient clinics on the McNair Campus or the Texas Children’s Pavilion for Women, you will continue to do so and can expect the same exceptional care from your physicians and from the medical and professional staff at these locations.

Baylor physicians will continue to admit patients as needed to the hospital of their choice. The Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center will have an open staff model, with both full-time Baylor faculty members and community physicians. We believe both groups enhance our patient care mission.

We hope this joint venture will grow our clinical practice and impact our education, research and community missions in significant ways. The Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center will serve as our primary, private adult teaching hospital and we expect it to offer an opportunity to grow on a national level in areas such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and genetics.

Our long-standing affiliations with Texas Children’s Hospital, Harris Health System, the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and other affiliated hospitals are unaffected by the joint venture and remain important to the mission of Baylor College of Medicine.

CHI St. Luke’s announced a long-term affiliation with Texas Heart Institute at the same time the joint venture was announced. Many of our faculty members are involved with THI and we see a significant opportunity for collaboration with the heart institute on the new campus.

Many issues will be addressed as we map the future for Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center.

In the days since the announcement, we have been working to put together the next steps for determining the best strategy for moving forward on a number of different levels. It is an exciting time for Baylor College of Medicine and I thank all of you who have communicated your support and suggestions.

If you have a question about the joint venture, please send me a note at president@bcm.edu.

School of Tropical Medicine. In her role as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Faculty Development, she will establish the Academic and Faculty Development Office which will focus on designing a comprehensive faculty orientation and development program including faculty mentoring and career development.

He wrote about how he was scared of coming to the meeting because he didn’t want to hear about all the bad things that could happen to his wife. But he did it to support his wife. Everyone stood up and gave him an ovation, so that was very touching.”

One woman wrote about her tendency to make people she meets feel like family, and how having the syndrome brings out that quality in her. She wrote about how she was in her dermatologist’s office and was asked to talk to another patient, a boy, who had been recently diagnosed. She felt her nurturing quality was enhanced by having dealt with the disease herself.

Like children she has worked with in the past, Murali feels adults can benefit from writing about living with their condition.

“They all have different lives that they probably have difficulty explaining, and to do it through writing provides a positive outlet,” she said. “For me, the writing program makes me feel like I contributed the world and helps me connect to people. Writing in general is a great way to stay grounded.”

Murali hopes to pursue a residency in pediatric genetics.

Read more about Murali’s work on the Momentum, the BCM blog.