

The Leader

A campus newspaper for faculty, staff and students at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Listening, Caring, Collecting, Being There

By Pamela Lewis, Public Affairs

From individual volunteers to organized groups, from one person's donations to a community in-gathering, hundreds of faculty, staff and students of the UT Health Science Center joined into a whole to help those evacuated following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina.

Most of this edition of *The Leader* will be devoted to coverage of what surely will be an ongoing need. It is to be hoped that the masses of people at the Astrodome, Reliant Center and the George R. Brown Convention Center will steadily leave those facilities for more comfortable, familial sur-



Evacuees take up residence at the Astrodome, one of three mass shelters established to house them. Photo by Karen Krakower

roundings; that those separated from their loved ones will be reunited; that destroyed homes and work spaces will be rebuilt.

But, in the meantime, we will continue to use the Katrina Web site, <http://www.uthouston.edu/katrina>, issues of *News on the Go* and *Leader Update* to bring you information about emerging needs, offer ways you can help and let you know about what others at the health science center are doing in the face of this ongoing disaster.

We thank all the writers, photographers, copy editors, Web and print designers who have helped tell these stories. ★

Texas Medical Schools Collaborate with Tulane Medical School To Set Up Temporary Campus for Education, Training, Research

Tulane University School of Medicine officials met with Houston-area medical school leaders Sept 7 to coordinate a plan for setting up temporary quarters for the New Orleans school displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The Alliance of South Texas Academic Health Centers was formed as a single entity to work with Tulane officials in offering support for the school's needs in education, training and research. Alliance members are Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and The University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

Tulane officials have been briefed on what facilities and services are available to the medical school, and Tulane has outlined its immediate needs in arranging for the education of medical students, training of residents, and continuation of research programs.

"Our goal is to quickly continue our programs by locating in the Houston area on an interim basis until we can return to our home campus in New Orleans," said Ian Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the Tulane School of Medicine. "The relocated programs will continue to be under the direc-

tion of Tulane administrators and faculty." The goal is to have Tulane medical students in classrooms by Sept. 26, and medical residents to begin training by Oct. 1.

Paul Whelton, M.D., senior vice president for the health sciences at Tulane, expressed appreciation for the Texas medical schools' quick response to Tulane's need for assistance.

"With this help, we will be able to provide our students and residents the same exceptional programs we offered before the storm," he said. "And we will re-establish these programs in New Orleans as soon as possible."

The alliance will assist in a number of areas, including providing classroom facilities, clinical rotations, residency assignments, office space and a clinic for Tulane faculty to treat their employees, students and family.

Tulane has approximately 580 residents and 600 medical students, as well as some 60 graduate school students and several M.D.-Ph.D. students.

The alliance also will help in moving research projects on a temporary basis to space at the Texas medical schools.

Another need will be for housing for students, residents and faculty members. The alliance members, working with Tulane officials, are establishing a plan to deal with housing needs. Details on this plan will be available on the Tulane Web site <http://www.som.tulane.edu>.

The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners has established an expedited system that will allow Louisiana physicians to obtain a temporary license to practice in the state. ★



Left: School of Public Health Dean Guy Parcel, Ph.D., left, meets with Tulane School of Public Health Dean Pierre Buekens, M.D., Ph.D., to discuss ways to support Tulane's public health students at UT. Photo by Michele Mocco



Below: Laurie Rutherford, right, director of student affairs at the UT School of Nursing, talks with nursing students from Louisiana and Mississippi about their educational needs. Photo by Michele Mocco

Health Science Center Hosts Tulane and LSU Public Health Students

The University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH) is host to administration and students from the Tulane University School of Public Health as well as students from Louisiana State University School of Public Health while those schools begin the recovery process from Hurricane Katrina., said Guy Parcel, Ph.D., dean of the UT school, Sept. 7

Pierre Buekens, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the Tulane SPH, now has an office on the second floor (west wing) of the building. Some Tulane faculty will relocate to Houston and will be available to work with UT faculty to support the additional teaching efforts and to work with Tulane students, according to Parcel.

Tulane and LSU students who have relocated to Houston (or near UTSPH Regional Campuses) attended an advisory meeting Sept. 8 and were able to register for classes Sept. 9-14. Staff from

the UTSPH Office of Student Affairs and the health science center offices of the Registrar and International Affairs were on hand to assist with registration, visa and other issues.

Those students were admitted to the UT School of Public Health as provisional degree-seeking students. UTSPH is working with the students to determine their course needs and match them as closely as possible with their studies at their respective home institutions. At press time, final decisions regarding tuition and fees were still being worked out.

The Dean's Office is developing a registry of faculty, staff and students willing to host Tulane and LSU faculty and students who are in need of lodging during their stay here. If you are interested in hosting someone, please contact Tracie Chase in the Dean's Office at Tracie.Chase@uth.tmc.edu.

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Top 10 Reasons to Attend Fun Fest

By Dawna Jarvis, Public Affairs

It happens every year in October and will again this year, **2-6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7** – the UT Health Science Center at Houston throws a party to celebrate and thank faculty, staff, fellows, residents and students. Where? At the Texas Medical Center Hornberger Conference Center, Holcombe at Pressler.

Why should you take that Friday afternoon off from work and join the fun? Check out **Top 10 Reasons** on Page 4.



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