A Message from the Dean

As you are all very much aware there are significant “changes” coming to the LSU hospital system – the hospitals that at one time provided exceptional training opportunities for our students and much needed care for our patients. However, an endless stream of budget reductions has taken its inevitable toll on these facilities. When I first arrived at LSU in 1984, Charity Hospital had over 1,000 patient beds. Most recently, that number has hovered around 200. Not only does this limit the access of our patients to much needed medical services, but it adversely impacts the education and training of our students and house officers. As Sir William Osler stated, “He who studies medicine without books sails an uncharted sea, but he who studies medicine without patients does not go to sea at all.”

These new partnerships will provide us the opportunity to improve and expand our training programs and provide access for our students and trainees to state-of-the-art facilities and technologies. Most importantly, we will have an increased capacity to care for the underserved and the uninsured. Although it has been questioned by some, LSU will not abandon its core mission to provide these essential safety-net services and the best of care for all of our patients.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson, MD, Dean
LSUHSC School of Medicine