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THE NEED: Healthcare Innovation Today to Drive the Region’s Economy Tomorrow

Baylor College of Medicine is the engine that powers the Texas Medical Center, the largest collection of health sciences institutions in the world. As such, Baylor is a key driver of Houston’s current and future economic growth. Home to the No. 1-ranked medical school in Texas, Baylor attracts the best minds in science and medicine to study and work in the region.

Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center and the current expansion of Baylor’s McNair Campus – including the near completion of O’Quinn Medical Tower and the planned build out of the current hospital tower – are investments in the Houston of today and tomorrow. This expansion is central to Baylor’s leadership role in healthcare innovation and as a driver of patient care excellence for the region and the nation. With expansion, the BSLMC-McNair Campus will boast more than 1.6 million square feet of space to support and provide personalized care to patients. Ultimately, the increased space, convenient location and ample parking near State Highway 288 south of downtown will triple the size of our oncology clinic and infusion space and grow our radiation oncology and other ambulatory care services. Upgraded facilities with the latest in technology and their proximity to the TMC3 research collaborative will unite the best minds in medicine, science, academia and industry to accelerate new research and attract and retain some of the brightest medical minds for the region.

Houston’s economic growth is, in part, anchored by its life sciences assets. Healthcare will continue to be a leading factor in the city’s economic growth and strength, according to the Center for Houston’s Future 2020 economic forecast. Additionally, the BSLMC-McNair Campus expansion helps Baylor further its educational mission to train the next generation of healthcare professionals. A June 2021 report from the Association of American Medical Colleges projects that the United States could see an estimated shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, including shortfalls in both primary and specialty care. The AAMC report cites the aging of the U.S. population as being the primary driver of the increasing demand for doctors, as well as a large portion of the physician workforce nearing retirement age. Baylor will continue to be a pipeline of the best-trained physician talent for generations to come through this project, as well as through our new Temple, Texas, campus.

Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center already is an internationally-recognized leader in research and clinical excellence, and further expansion at the McNair Campus, as well as major renovations to BSLMC on Bertner Avenue in the TMC will help spur (1) further research and collaboration; (2) unparalleled education and talent retention opportunities for our trainees and (3) the highest standards of clinical care anchored on evidence-based data for the safety of patients, visitors, staff and physicians. Masterplan expansion goals include promoting human-centered experiences through integrating nature, technology, intuitive wayfinding, convenient parking and increased patient privacy and safety. BSLMC was one of the first hospitals established in the TMC, and we are raising $100 million for the McNair Campus expansion and improvements to BSLMC to meet the immediate and long-term needs of healthcare in the region. We invite you to make a contribution to the future of health by giving to the BSLMC-McNair and Bertner Campus capital campaign, which will allow the Center that helped put the TMC on the map to continue its innovations in research, education and patient care to spark the next advances in science and medicine.
It’s not about the buildings…

It’s about how you can help elevate and expand healthcare for Houston and beyond.

THE SOLUTION: Uniting the Best of the Texas Medical Center Through Capital Improvements

Our vision for the future of healthcare is to leverage the best of the Texas Medical Center to ensure that Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center and Houston are where ideas continue to drive healthcare discoveries. Expansion at Baylor’s McNair Campus with the BSLMC-McNair Campus Patient Tower I, the O’Quinn Medical Tower and improvements at the historic BSLMC original location help move us closer to our aim of attracting the best and brightest minds and delivering innovative, next-generation patient care for the region. A fall 2020 report from Center for Houston’s Future estimates that between 2019 and 2036 – the 200th anniversary of Houston’s founding – 1 in 4 of all jobs added within the region will be created in the healthcare sector. It also found that failing to develop an adequate healthcare workforce pipeline will cost the region $18.6 billion in GDP and 111,000 jobs by 2036. Baylor’s presence in Texas already contributes $4.5 billion annually to the economy. Just over half (51%) of all National Institutes of Health research funding in the Texas Medical Center is awarded to Baylor, and the College represents 21% of all NIH funding in Texas, resulting in about 7,000 jobs and an estimated $1.2 billion in economic activity.

With our exceptional collection of intellectual and biomedical assets, Baylor is well-positioned to make an even greater impact toward building a robust economy rooted in healthcare. We will accomplish that through:

Cutting-Edge Research
To support the “bench to bedside” loop, where physicians use findings in the lab to improve clinical care and apply observations made in the clinic to inform further research, translating lab discoveries into patient care in a cyclical process.

Exceptional Education
To support interactions among physicians, scientists, health sciences trainees and others, sparking new ideas that lead to breakthroughs in science and medicine among today’s medical professionals as well as tomorrow’s.

Quality Patient Care
To create comfortable, easy-to-navigate spaces that optimize the patient and visitor experience, leverage technology to seamlessly coordinate and deliver patient care, and further develop precision medicine based on a patient’s unique needs and circumstances.

BSLMC operates as a joint venture between Baylor College of Medicine and St. Luke’s Health, a part of CommonSpirit Health, one of the largest nonprofit healthcare systems in the United States. As Baylor College of Medicine’s primary teaching hospital, BSLMC is home to the College’s highly ranked inpatient and outpatient service lines. The majority of physicians that staff BSLMC also are faculty members and scientists at Baylor College of Medicine, which gives patients access to novel therapeutics through the College’s centers and research programs that cross all patient demographics and disease types. Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center is an internationally recognized leader in research and clinical excellence that has spurred breakthroughs in cardiovascular care, neuroscience, oncology and other areas (see ranking graphic). Medical students and other health professional trainees at Baylor complete clinical rotations at BSLMC. They learn to practice medicine and work with a uniquely diverse patient population, which enhances trainees’ future clinical and research endeavors.
Our Current Impact

BSLMC’s overall hospital ranking is No. 3 in Texas and No. 2 in Houston. BSLMC also ranks nationally in five adult specialties (2021 U.S. News & World Report) and has shown consistent improvement over the last several years:

Neurology and Neurosurgery
No. 3
Cardiology and Heart Surgery
No. 13
(up from No. 21 in 2019)
No. 1 in Houston
Gastroenterology and GI Surgery
No. 24
Cancer
No. 25
(up from No. 36 in 2019)
Geriatrics
No. 46

Fifteen BSLMC service lines and procedures received High Performing Hospital Rankings (U.S. News & World Report):

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- Acute Kidney Failure
- Aortic Valve
- Coronary Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Colon Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart Attack
- Heart Bypass Surgery
- Heart Failure
- Lung Cancer Surgery
- Pneumonia
- Stroke
- Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement
- Pulmonology & Lung Surgery
- Urology

BSLMC’s aspiration is to be continually listed each year among U.S. News & World Reports’ Best Hospitals Honor Roll, which highlights hospitals that excel across most or all types of care evaluated by the magazine. The BSLMC improvements and the McNair campus expansion overall will help with this aim. As the top-ranked cardiac program in Houston, BSLMC recently welcomed Dr. Marc Moon, an expert and pioneer in the most advanced forms of cardiac surgery, as chief of the Adult Cardiac Surgery section at BSLMC. Demonstrating the collaboration in care among some of the TMC’s leading institutions, Dr. Moon also will serve as chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine and chief of Adult Cardiac Surgery at Texas Heart Institute, which has its home at BSLMC. These affiliate partnerships and collaboration ultimately benefit patient care by bringing together the best minds in the TMC.

Beyond the exceptional work leading to the above rankings, following is a specific example of how BSLMC physicians are truly transforming lives.

BSLMC Physicians Offer Life-Altering Treatment for Patients with Parkinson’s Disease

Parkinson’s disease is the second most common degenerative neurological disorder after Alzheimer’s disease. As many as 1 million Americans live with Parkinson’s disease and approximately 60,000 are diagnosed with the incurable disease each year. Medications and lifestyle changes may help to alleviate symptoms, but over time treatments may become less effective and medication side-effects may become intolerable.

In a desperate search for answers after medications made him very sick, Rudy Hardy, a patient diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, sought treatment at BSLMC after hearing about a groundbreaking procedure: deep brain stimulation. BSLMC’s neurology and neurosurgery team are pioneers in the field and have performed more than 600 deep brain stimulation implants since 2019.

One of the most advanced therapies for Parkinson’s disease symptoms, deep brain stimulation is a surgical treatment that implants a device that sends electrical signals to a targeted area of the brain responsible for body movement caused by Parkinson’s disease. The electrical impulses disrupt the abnormal activity that occurs in the brain’s circuitry, which causes the symptoms.

Sameer Sheth, M.D., Ph.D., performed the procedure on Rudy over the course of two weeks. The goal of the first surgery was to implant the probes into Rudy’s brain, and the second procedure ran the wires from the probes to the implanted battery in Rudy’s chest. Dr. Sheth and Ashwin Viswanathan, M.D., both BSLMC physicians and neurosurgery faculty members at Baylor College of Medicine, were among the first Texas doctors to use the most advanced version of deep brain stimulation.

“The results have been amazing,” Rudy said. “As soon as they turned it on, my right hand stopped trembling. It’s unbelievable.”

Dr. Sameer Sheth operates on a patient
CALL TO ACTION: How We Achieve the Vision

With facilities under construction and undergoing modernization, Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center and the McNair Campus expansion are setting a new standard for healthcare delivery while enhancing undergraduate and graduate medical education and clinical research. Every dollar of support from the Houston community for growth and expansion of BSLMC and the McNair Campus is an investment in the region’s growth. The expanding McNair Campus rests on a 27.5-acre campus directly adjacent to the planned site of TMC³, located between Old Spanish Trail and the Brays Bayou. It also will be adjacent to Baylor’s multi-tower Health Sciences Park that will foster modern education and research for aspiring and established health professionals and scientists. The McNair Campus, with its convenient location, ample parking, easy access to Highway 288 and the newest ambulatory diagnostic and treatment facility, will be the model for healthcare delivery for the region. The major elements of the $100 million BSLMC-McNair Campus capital campaign expansion project include:

BSLMC-McNair Campus Patient Tower I

The new O’Quinn Tower and its designation as the clinical home of Baylor’s Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center – ranked No. 2 in Houston and only one of three comprehensive National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers in Texas – under one roof. The goal of the O’Quinn Medical Tower, scheduled to open in 2023, is to create a cancer care destination where patients can easily navigate a comprehensive array of oncology services from the best scientific minds using therapies available nowhere else.

The O’Quinn Tower will also include an ambulatory surgery center and an outpatient radiology center that will support both the oncology service line and other outpatient service line needs. Additionally, the tower will significantly expand oncology services, including a Phase 1 clinical trial infusion center. Staffed by multidisciplinary physician-scientists who are Baylor College of Medicine researchers, the O’Quinn Tower will be a hub for lifesaving innovations in cancer treatment. The expanded cancer center will offer radiation therapy and other diagnostic and treatment services, as well as multiple specialized oncology clinics and an infusion center. Among other services expected to be offered at the new Tower are a pain center and a comprehensive breast center that is comprised of a breast imaging center and multidisciplinary clinic.

“The new O’Quinn Tower and its designation as the clinical home of Baylor’s Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center will be an important milestone in Baylor’s mission. The McNair Campus is the hub of our clinical activity, and we look forward to the continued expansion.”

— Dr. Paul Klotman

president, CEO and executive dean of Baylor College of Medicine

BSLMC on Bertner Avenue in the TMC was completed in 1954 and served as St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital prior to becoming Baylor College of Medicine’s main teaching hospital and, later, Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center in 2004. BSLMC houses the highly-ranked Texas Heart Institute and currently is home to the vast majority of BSLMC’s inpatient services. The hospital is undergoing a major renovation that includes technical and equipment upgrades, as well as patient enhancements that bring the facility into the 21st century.

Join Us in the Quest to Power the Future of Health for the Entire Region

Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center is a flagship Houston healthcare institution that has paved the way for breakthroughs in medicine and patient care. As a five Magnet designated hospital – a signal of excellence in care – BSLMC shows its commitment to both clinical staff as well as those they serve.

Today, BSLMC and the McNair Campus expansion signal Baylor’s commitment to positioning Houston as the epicenter in a new chapter in healthcare history. Data confirms that the city’s future job growth and vibrancy are rooted in investments in life sciences and healthcare. Baylor is uniquely suited to address growth through quality patient care, exceptional education and cutting-edge research. Your contribution to the $100 million BSLMC-McNair Campus capital campaign is an investment in a thriving future economy for the region, as well as an investment in the physicians, scientists and trainees who work tirelessly in the pursuit of making healthcare innovations happen.

For more information, please contact Baylor College of Medicine Senior Vice President for Advancement Stephanie Young at 713-798-4714 or stephanie.young@bcm.edu.