

## **Annual Report**

### **4th District – Louisiana State Medical Society**

#### **Frederick J. White MD, 4th District Councilor**

In October 2018, the Fourth District election was held, with Dr. Frederick J. White re-elected as the Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) Board of Governors Fourth District Councilor and Dr. Susan Veillon elected as the Alternate. Dr. John Carmody and Dr. Jake Majors were re-elected as Fourth District Representative and Alternate to the LSMS Council on Legislation. At the January meeting of the LSMS House of Delegates, Dr. Lee Stevens was elected President-Elect of the LSMS. Dr. Steen Trawick continued to serve as Vice Speaker of the LSMS House of Delegates. Dr. F. Dean Griffen received the LSMS Hall of Fame Award.

In 2018 the Shreveport Medical Society (SMS) was under the leadership of President Margaret M. Crittall MD, and in December the SMS inaugurated Dr. Christina M. Notarianni to serve as President for 2019. At the March Quarterly Meeting of the SMS, Dr. Christy Valentine, the current President of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, spoke on current and future activities of the Board and on the issue of physician burnout. At the August Quarterly Meeting Mr. Warner Thomas, President and Chief Executive Officer of Oschner Health System, spoke on the current and future Oschner relationship with the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport, University Health, and the Shreveport Medical community. At the November Quarterly Meeting Dr. Tom Latiolais, Director of the SMS Physician Revitalization Program, spoke on the mission and operational plans for that program. During the legislative session the SMS sent letters to area legislators in support of SB 286 – The Physicians Bill of Rights.

In June Mr. William O. Huckabay retired as Executive Director of Shreveport Medical Society after 29 years of exemplary service. In August the membership of the Shreveport Medical Society granted Mr. Huckabay Honorary Membership status, and he became the only non-physician to gain this honor in the history of the SMS. In December Mr. Huckabay received the Shreveport Medical Society Distinguished Service Honor Award. In July Dr. Rita Horton began service as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

In May the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport graduated 122 medical students as Doctors of Medicine. In the face of dire warnings, the Legislature eventually protected the LSU School of Medicine in Shreveport in its approved budget plan in June. In September the State of Louisiana, the LSU Board of Supervisors and Ochsner Health System announced the signing of the final Public Private Partnership Agreement. LSU continued oversight of the LSUHSC-S School of Medicine, School of Allied Health Professions, and School of Graduate Studies. Ochsner gained management of operations for partner hospitals in Shreveport and Monroe, the clinics, and the clinical activity of the LSUHSC-S Faculty Group Practice. In October LSU and Ochsner officially took control of northern Louisiana's safety net hospitals, previously operated by BRF under the banner of University Health Hospitals. The new names of the hospitals are Ochsner LSU Hospital Shreveport and Ochsner LSU Hospital Monroe. Despite the removal of hospital operations from BRF, in October BRF Hospital Holdings and the Vantage Health Plan announced that they would continue their antitrust lawsuit against Willis-Knighton Health System. In December the LSU System Board of Supervisors approved \$28 million as part of a capital funding proposal to help build a five-story medical education center on the LSUHSC Shreveport campus.

In February Christus Shreveport-Bossier opened its Bossier Emergency Hospital as a short-stay hospital with an emergency room. In June Christus Shreveport-Bossier announced an approximately \$50 million capital expansion of the Christus Highland complex, including a new hospital wing and expansion of the Highland Clinic. In September Christus and a private cardiology group working in partnership opened an outpatient cardiac catheterization and vascular lab. Despite the 2017 donation of the Christus St. Mary Place campus to a non-profit group in partnership with LSU Health Shreveport, the 845,000 square foot facility remained vacant in 2018.

In June Willis Knighton dedicated its new \$35 million Dr. James Stanford Shelby Cardiovascular Surgery Institute, an 80,000 square foot expansion that includes five new surgical suites and 20 additional critical care beds. In July Fitch Ratings affirmed its "AA-" rating on Willis-Knighton's series 1997, series 1995, and series 1993 bonds, affecting about \$144.5 million of debt. In October Fitch Ratings assigned a "AA-" rating to Willis-Knighton's \$300 million series 2018 bonds.

In March Springhill Medical Center was one of three hospitals in Louisiana to be named among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals by IBM Watson Health. Also in March Allegiance Health Management announced its purchase of Minden Medical Center. In November Minden Medical Center was one of 42 hospitals nationwide to make the Leapfrog Group "Straight A List" for patient safety.

In September a limited-liability front company announced a \$35 million investment in a 10 bed short stay surgical hospital and possible hotel in Bossier City, though it was unclear as to who was behind the project.

N.B.: portions of this report are sourced, sometimes verbatim, from local news sources.