

## Investors

# Gulf South Joint Replacement — Touro Infirmary



The Gulf South Joint Replacement Center at Touro Infirmary team, seated from left: Penny Nunenmacher and Leslie Parry. Standing, from left, Al Trevino, Shirley Martin, Dwayne Murray, Brian Mahl, Lillian O'Cain and Heather Uhl.

**Key innovation:** hip, knee and shoulder replacement surgeries

**Where they're based:** New Orleans

**Top executive:** Ralph Dean, vice president of operations and chief operating officer

**Year introduced:** March 2007

The way Touro Infirmary's Al Trevino sees it, baby boomers refuse to retire to a life of lounging on rocking chairs the way their parents and grandparents did. Sore knees and joints won't keep them from weekend tennis games and company basketball leagues, even if it means going under the knife.

Thanks to the Gulf South Joint Replacement Center at Touro, which opened in March, New Orleans patients have

access to surgical procedures that can keep them active.

"If we start to experience hip or knee pain that can be helped, then that's an option we're going to take," said Trevino, the center's patient care manager. "The center is a matter of getting people back to a lifestyle they're used to without the pain."

An Academy of Orthopedic Surgery study last year showed orthopedic doctors expect to perform 3.5 million knee replacement surgeries a year by 2030 — a 673 percent jump from now. The only unit able to meet such demands locally is Touro's, which counts on skills and techniques seldom seen in other parts of the country.

Dr. Lance Estrada is one of only a few doctors in the country certified to repair severe rotator cuff injuries and arthritis with an innovative shoulder surgery. Dr. Richard Meyer Jr., a hip and knee replacement specialist, was the first physician in Louisiana to perform a total knee replacement

using computer-assisted orthopedic surgery. Other surgeons say his specialty is safer and less invasive than the traditional method and call it "the wave of the future."

"No place else in the Gulf South can you get the dedicated, comprehensive joint replacement treatment that is provided here," said Karen Hales, spokeswoman for the center. "It is creating a reason for people to come here at such a crucial time."

Patients and their families know exactly what's coming a week ahead of time — from what chair they'll sit in for lunch the day after surgery to how to prepare their homes for the recovery period.

"It truly was one of the best hospital experiences I've ever had," said Stephen Labranche, one of Touro's first total hip replacement patients. "I did exactly what they said to do, and five days later I was discharged. I've gone back twice to visit them just to say hello."\*

— Ramon Vargas