



## **Work Begins on Biocontainment Lab**

Workers will break ground today at the site of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) Regional Biocontainment Laboratory (RBL). The groundbreaking will take place at 10 a.m. at the site of the original Baptist Memorial Hospital at the corner of Madison Avenue and Dudley Street.

"It's the first visible part of the (UT-Baptist) Research Park, and that is really going to impact the economy when it is finished," said Gerald I. Byrne, director of the lab. "I think we really have a chance to become a great example of how we can bring together outstanding teams of investigators."

The laboratory will be the first new building at the park. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2008, Byrne said.

In 2003, UTHSC was awarded nearly \$18 million in federal funding from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) to be used to build a laboratory on the UT-Baptist Research Park site for biomedical and biodefense research and research training.