The LSU School of Medicine Alumni Association celebrated its 6th Annual Purple and Gold Gala on October 15, 2011, at the Marriott New Orleans. Silent and live auctions featured artwork, sports paraphernalia and vacation resorts. Entertainment by the Jimmy Maxwell Orchestra provided opportunities for dancing and second lines. Photographs from the Gala are featured below and on pages 19 - 21.

SAVE THE DATE for next year’s Gala on Friday, October 19, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. For more information, see page 21.

Gathering at the entrance to the LSU Gala are ersatz 1920s gangsters and their molls, from left to right: James Leonard ('63), Joyce Leonard, Anne Monlezun, and Lee J. Monlezun ('69).

PHOTO, RIGHT

Left to right: Holly Gottschalk, Robert Batson ('71), Dr. Rick Vander Heide, Dr. Art Haas, and Dr. Leonard Bok
The Rrrroaring ‘20s - Purple & Gold Gala

ABOVE: Priscilla Baughman and Charles Baughman (’56) came from Phoenix, AZ, and time-traveled to the 1920s via the LSU Gala.

Left to right: Sanjeeva Reddy (’89), Dr. Haydee Bazan, and Sridevi Reddy

L3 students at the Gala (left to right): Katie Rousseau, Sara Reggie, Jenny Zhang, and Joyce Muruthi

L2 students gather at the Gala (left to right): Rockne Hymel, Zachary Dureau, David Swetland, Michael Modica, and John Helmstetter

PHOTO, LEFT

Bob Bozeman and Mary Lou Applewhite (’55)
The Rrrroaring ‘20s - Purple & Gold Gala

Left to right: Dr. Nicolas Bazan, Dr. Haydee Bazan, Amanda Henne (L3), and Tate Boudreaux

Left to right: Dr. John Lombardi, Joe Corso, and Karen Corso

Left to right: Shannon Cerise, Fred Cerise (‘88), Laura Albert, Lauren Albert (L1), and Thomas Albert (‘88)

Left to right: Ellen Schneider (‘86), Allison Galvan (‘89), Peter Galvan (‘89), and Sam Alexander (‘89)

L4 students (left to right): Kyle McMullen, Danny Eads, Sophia Mai, and Jason Gray
The Rrrroaring ’20s - Purple & Gold Gala

Left to right: Dr. Peter Winsauer, Nancy Winsauer, Dr. Rubia Kapusta, and Dr. Daniel Kapusta

LSU Medical Alumni Association
7th Annual Purple and Gold Gala
SECOND LINES TO THE SUPER BOWL IN NEW ORLEANS

Mike the Tiger cordially invites you to join faculty, students, classmates and friends at the 7th Annual LSU Medical Alumni Association Purple and Gold Gala — as we second line to the Super Bowl in New Orleans on Friday, October 19, 2012.

The venue for this year’s Gala will be the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, 601 Loyola Avenue. To say that this is a beautifully remodeled, contemporary hotel is an understatement. The hotel has just re-opened since Katrina. Entertainment will be by the world famous Vince Vance and the Valiants.

Get a table together and make a weekend trip. You can attend the Gala on Friday and, on Saturday, watch LSU play at Kentucky in the Hyatt’s Vitascope Hall, a state-of-the-art entertainment area with 25 flat screen TV’s. Cuisine offered is Louisiana seafood, sushi, sashimi, burgers and more and some of Louisiana’s best crafted beer and cocktails.

You can take the newly installed streetcar line on Loyola Avenue, which stops right across the street from the Hyatt, transfer at Canal and go to the French Quarter and French Market for some great shopping and restaurants.

The New Orleans Saints will be playing Sunday, and if you have tickets and it’s a home game, you can simply walk to the Mercedes-Benz Superdome or watch the game in Champions Square. The schedule won’t be out until early spring.

Our goal this year is to have each class purchase at least one table. Call some classmates and reserve a table or two. Each table seats ten.

The Gala will be bigger and better in 2012. The profit will be used to support medical school alumni activities and our students – the future of medical care in Louisiana.
Tiger Cubs — Class of 1015

*Left to right: Laura Albert, Thomas Albert, Lauren Albert (cub), and Thomas Albert ('88)*

*Left to right: Drew Foret, Gerald Foret, Jr. ('85), Gerald Foret III (cub), and Gerald Foret, Sr. ('61)*

*Left to right: Cynthia Kendrick, Jeff Kendrick (cub), and Robert Kendrick ('75)*

*Left to right: Marla Cannatella ('85), Mary Silverberg (cub), and Joel Silverberg ('85)*
Tiger Cubs — Class of 2015

Left to right: Catherine Rachal, Lauren Rachal (cub), and Paul Rachal ('83)

Left to right: Jeannette Rolfsen, Matthew Rolfsen (cub), and Michael Rolfsen ('82)

Left to right: Mary Parker, Catherine Parker (cub), and William Parker ('80)

Christopher Molligan (cub), left, with Harry Molligan ('83). Christopher is also the son of Ann Molligan ('83).

Left to right: Brian Naccari ('86), Derek Naccari (cub), and Maria Naccari
Medical Student Research Day

In 2011, for the first time, a research day was dedicated solely to medical students. Freshman, sophomore and junior students presented the data from their research. Organized by Dr. Paula Gregory, Medical Student Research Day is designed to showcase the accomplishments of LSU School of Medicine medical students and to provide them with the opportunity to present their projects to fellow students and faculty. The day consisted of poster presentations followed by a talk by the invited speaker, concluding with student oral presentations.

The keynote address was given by alumnus Vinodh Narayanan (’81) from the Barrow Neurological Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. Dr. Narayanan is the Co-Director of the Pediatric Neurogenetics Center, the Director of the Neurofibromatosis Clinics and the Director of the Developmental Neurogenetics Lab. In his talk, “Percent Effort: Life as a Clinician Scientist,” he discussed both his research and his career path.

Nisha Loganantharaj (L2) won Best Poster Presentation for her poster “Effects of chronic alcohol consumption on the genital microenvironment in SIV-infected Rhesus Macaques.” The Best Oral Presentation was given by Amanda Henne (L2) for “Novel regulatory mechanism of the inflammatory response mediated by the messenger NPD1 targeting transcription of Wnt5a.” The winners received travel scholarships from Dean Nelson and will present at the National Student Research Forum in Galveston, TX. The LSU Medical Alumni Association provided the funding for the day.

Tumor Registry at LSUHSC Earns Top Honor

The Louisiana Tumor Registry at the LSUHSC-NO School of Public Health is one of four cancer registries in the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program earning a 2011 First Place Data Quality Profile Award. The SEER Program is the most authoritative source of information on cancer incidence and survival in the United States.

This is the third time LSUHSC’s Louisiana Tumor Registry has earned a First Place Award and the second consecutive year.

“This honor not only recognizes the commitment to high quality of my staff here at the LSUHSC School of Public Health, but the dedicated efforts of the staffs of the regional registries and hospital registries throughout the state with whom we collaborate,” notes Dr. Vivien Chen, Professor and Director of the Louisiana Tumor Registry at LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Public Health.

The primary function of a cancer registry is to record the occurrence of cancer in a population. Information collected includes demographic data, tumor type, stage of disease, and treatment. Information on risk factors is usually not available from the reporting sources. However, data from the registry often provides clues to be pursued in special research studies conducted by qualified scientists with external funding.

The SEER Program collects cancer incidence and survival data from 17 population-based cancer registries in the United States. It is considered to be the standard for quality among cancer registries around the world. Quality control has been an integral part of SEER since its inception.

Cancer is a reportable disease in the State of Louisiana. Hospitals, private pathology laboratories, radiation centers and health care providers who diagnose or treat cancer are required by law to report the cancer cases to the Louisiana Tumor Registry which was

Continued at top of page 25.
Research Discovers Potentially Deadly Fungus Senses Body’s Defenses to Evade Them

Glen Palmer, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology at LSUHSC-NO, was part of an international research team led by Luigina Romani, MD, at the University of Perugia, that discovered opportunistic fungi like Candida albicans can sense the immune status of host cells and adapt, evading immune system defenses. Unlike previous studies, this research investigated both sides of the infection equation as well as the interaction between the fungi and the cells they will invade. The findings are published online in Nature Communications in the most recent articles section (February 21, 2012).

This study demonstrates that this process is much more elaborate and complex than previously understood. The researchers determined that C. albicans binds to the host immune signaling molecule, Interleukin (IL) 17A, which permits the fungus to navigate and tolerate the active immune environment of healthy host tissue, mounting effective countermeasures. IL-17A may also contribute to disease susceptibility by modifying the intrinsic virulence of the fungus. This study provides molecular evidence that by exploiting IL-17A, the fungus not only survives, but can cause disease to develop.

“It’s a bit like the fungus is listening in to the conversations our immune system is having so it can best determine how to react and survive in our tissues. This may also be a crucial step in determining when this opportunist decides to invade host tissue and cause life-threatening disease in an immunosuppressed patient,” notes Dr. Palmer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more than 20 species of Candida yeasts that can cause infection in humans, the most common of which is Candida albicans. Candida yeasts normally live on the skin and mucous membranes without causing infection; however, overgrowth of these organisms can cause symptoms to develop. Symptoms of candidiasis vary depending on the area of the body that is infected. Candidiasis that develops in the mouth or throat is called “thrush” or oropharyngeal candidiasis. Candidiasis in the vagina is commonly referred to as a “yeast infection.” Invasive candidiasis occurs when Candida species enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body. Candidemia (a bloodstream infection with Candida), is extremely rare in people without risk factors, but it is the fourth most common bloodstream infection among hospitalized patients in the United States.

“Disrupting or manipulating the fungal sensing of these host molecules could trick the fungus, essentially suppressing an infection, or enabling us to eliminate this potentially dangerous fungus before it causes problems,” concludes Dr. Palmer.

The research team also included scientists from the University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy, University Complutense, Madrid, Spain, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, and Institut Pasteur, Paris, France.

This work is supported by the Specific Targeted Research Project ALLFUN and by the Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Fibrosi Cistica.

News item from Leslie Capo, Director of Information Services, LSUHSC-NO – February 22, 2012
Greetings to All,

The times, they remain interesting if not also entertaining. As we find ourselves immersed in the mundane politics leading up to the November election, Israel and Iran are locked in a tense struggle pertaining to Iran’s nuclear development strategy. The Euro apparently will survive while the US debt knows no bounds.

Nevertheless, your alumni board presses forward in significantly reducing its debt relative to the Center for Advanced Practice. Simultaneously the board members continually embrace the future for additional undertakings. At our last meeting Mark Juneau (’73) eloquently spoke of our need for a mission or undertaking that keeps us focused on new and expanding projects. I could not agree more.

On behalf of the LSU Medical Alumni Association I extend an enthusiastic appreciation to all who worked so fervently at making the last Purple and Gold Gala a huge success. To all who made contributions and for those who attended, many thanks as well. Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Purple and Gold Gala slated for October 19, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. Vince Vance and Valiants will perform.

Please remember the reunions scheduled for this summer on June 8-9th 2012. Members of Classes ’46, ’52, ’55, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, and ’02 will be recognized.

Also the Eighteenth Annual LSU Medical Alumni Golf Classic will take place during the reunion and is scheduled for June 8th, with registration at 8:00 AM at the Chateau Golf and Country Club. John McLachlan (’62) and Mack Thomas (’62) are the co-chairs.

Finally I wish to persuade each of you to encourage friends and previous classmates to become active in medical alumni affairs. Please feel free to contact me or Cathi Fontenot (’84) for any questions. We’ll be celebrating the Super Bowl in New Orleans!

Sincerely,

Lee R. Domangue (’76)
President
LSU Medical Alumni Association