Demand for family physicians increasing

A recent report in the August issue of Medical Economics and Patient Care shows that in the last year, the need for primary-care physicians has spiked significantly, with family physicians among the top five most-wanted physicians in the country. The report also reveals that the average salary for FPs has increased more than 7 percent since 2001.

It should also be noted that, with the proper training and skills, family physicians can perform a number of procedures, including endoscopies, fracture care, joint injections and aspirations, and lumbar punctures, to name just a few. This results in an interesting and rewarding clinical experience as well as the opportunity to increase your income potential.

With this in mind, I encourage you to consider Family Medicine as a career. You can find your own area of interest within a broad scope of practice, including sports medicine, geriatric medicine, integrative medicine, adolescent medicine or women’s health. If you have any questions or would like more information about a career in Family Medicine, I encourage you to meet with me to discuss it further. Please call the department at 568-8307 or stop by Room 123 in the Clinical Education Building any time.

—Kim Edward LeBlanc, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Department Head

Interest groups give students in-depth information

The Department of Family Medicine sponsors four student interest groups within the School of Medicine. For more information on joining these organizations, contact the student leaders or faculty advisors by e-mail or call the department at 568-8307:

- The Family Medicine Interest Group provides students with an opportunity to learn more about the role the family practitioner plays in the community. Second-year student Sudip Bhandari (sband@lsuhsc.edu) leads the FMIG, and Dr. Ronald Gagné (rgagne@lsuhsc.edu) is the faculty advisor.

- The Geriatric Medicine Interest Group was recently recognized as an official chapter of the American Geriatrics Society. The group’s first meeting is Sept. 8 in MEB Lecture Room A. Contact second-year student Lauren Zatarain (lzatar@lsuhsc.edu) or faculty advisor Dr. Lainie Moncada (lmonca@lsuhsc.edu) for information on the GMIG.

- The Integrative Medicine Interest Group welcomes practitioners who incorporate non-allopathic approaches into traditional medical practices. The group’s next meeting, which will focus on nutritional medicine and vitamin therapy, is Sept. 28. Future topics include Chinese medicine and yoga. Second-year student Duncan Friedman (dfried@lsuhsc.edu) heads up the IMIG, and Dr. Henri Roca (hrroca@lsuhsc.edu) is the group’s faculty advisor.

- The Sports Medicine Interest Group aims to expand the awareness and knowledge of the principles and concepts of Sports Medicine. Future meeting topics include environmental concerns in Sports Medicine and the Female Athlete Triad and pregnancy. For more information on the SMIG, e-mail second-year student Barton Wax (bwax@lsuhsc.edu) or faculty advisors Dr. Thomas Bond (tbond@lsuhsc.edu) and Dr. Kim Edward LeBlanc (klebla@lsuhsc.edu).
**Department notes and achievements**

Erin Alesi, second-year medical student and member of the Integrative Medicine Interest Group, received a mini-grant from the American Medical Student Association to organize a Day of Wellness in Spring 2005.

Bryan Barootes, M.D., Assistant Professor, will be part of the host medical team for the Canada Games in August 2005 in Regina, Saskatchewan, where he practiced for more than 14 years. Dr. Barootes is also an examiner for the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine Diploma Exam in Sport Medicine in Vancouver and the Certification Exam in Family Medicine in Toronto, both in October.

Charles A. Cefalu, M.D., M.S., Professor and Chief, Section of Geriatric Medicine, presented Primary Care Evaluation and Management of Osteoporosis at the Geriatrics for the Primary Care Physician conference in Orlando, Fla., in July. In addition, he spoke at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in New Orleans on the topic of Geriatric Medicine as a Career. Dr. Cefalu recently published the article “Management of Geriatric Depression in Primary Care” in the August issue of Resident & Staff Physician as well as “From Perimenopause to Postmenopausal: Two Case Studies” in the September issue of The Female Patient.

Rosa DeSha Folgar, M.D., first-year resident in the Lake Charles Family Practice Residency Program, was named the sixth annual recipient of the Gladney Endowment, which is awarded annually to a deserving young physician with an interest in rural medicine.

Warren Gude, M.D., joined the department in August as our first Sports Medicine Fellow.

Glenn N. Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor, and Phillip J. Brantley, Ph.D., Professor, and colleagues, published the article “Use of the Beck Depression Inventory-II with African American Primary Care Patients” in General Hospital Psychiatry, in which they establish that the BDI-II has screening properties among African-American primary-care patients that are similar to the properties established among the primarily European-American samples studied by the test’s developers.

Residents in the Lafayette Family Practice Residency Program have been performing physicals on detainees at the Lafayette Juvenile Detention Center. This community service provides funding for the local information and referral center, “232-HELP,” an important public resource in the area.

The Lake Charles Family Practice Residency Program participated in parish-wide high-school sports physicals in July, which provided physicals to over 700 athletes. In addition, all of the residency’s 2004 graduates passed the American Board of Family Practice examination, continuing a 100-percent passing rate for graduates of the program.

Alan L. LeBato, M.D., Assistant Professor and Director, Lake Charles Family Practice Residency Program, and residents Brian Smith, M.D., and Rosa DeSha Folgar, M.D., attended the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students in Kansas City, Mo., in July.

Kim Edward LeBlanc, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Head, was elected President-Elect of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians at its General Assembly in Orlando, Fla., in July. At the LAFP assembly, he presented The Sports Pre-Participation Examination and Update on Ergogenic Aids. He also spoke at the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine in New Orleans on the topic of Family Medicine as a Career. In addition, he was appointed Chairman of the Federation of State Medical Boards’ Special Committee on the Evaluation of Undergraduate Medical Education. He recently contributed the chapter “Nutrition in Sports” to the third edition of Sports Medicine for the Primary Care Physician and, with Thomas K. Bond, M.D., M.S., Assistant Professor and Chief, Section of Sports Medicine, authored the article “Exercise and Aging” in the August issue of Resident & Staff Physician.

The LSU Family Practice Clinic at Kenner Regional Medical Center was chosen by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and Office of Public Health as a community immunization site during the “Shots for Tots” immunization drive in August. The state provided vaccines that were administered to the general public at no cost and with no appointments needed. In addition, the clinic’s faculty, residents and staff participated in the New Orleans Kids and Family Expo, offering information on hypertension, diabetes, and obesity screening and education.

Lainie V. Moncada, M.D., Assistant Professor, Section of Geriatric Medicine, published the article “Diagnosis and Treatment of Falls in the Elderly” in the August issue of Resident & Staff Physician.

Henri Roca, M.D., Assistant Professor and Interim Chief, Section of Integrative Medicine, presented An Overview of Complementary Therapies to the Integrative Medicine Interest Group in August. In addition, Dr. Roca was named to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners’ Complementary and Alternative Medicine Advisory Board and was appointed a special assistant for holistic area representatives of the American Holistic Medical Association.

Toikus Westbrook, M.D., second-year resident in the Kenner Family Practice Residency Program, was selected for a series of television interviews on health care, which will air in New Orleans this fall.