

LSUHSC Science Youth Initiative (SYI) - Middle and High School Workshops at LSUHSC

The goal of this component of the SYI program is to make health science topics easier to understand, to help high school students to improve their Advance Placement and Honors Biology test scores, and to promote a variety of health science related career opportunities. The workshops are coordinated with the school teachers to maximize the level of student learning and complement their classroom curriculum and academic level. The program, started in 2009, has been funded through education grants from the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation and the Baptist Community Ministries (BCM) awarded to Dr. Fern Tsien, faculty in the Department of Genetics. SYI Co-Investigator is Ms. Martha Cuccia in the School of Public Health. The workshops are held at the LSUHSC School of Medicine, 1901 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112.



Dr. Danielle Mercer, Dept. of Genetics, School of Medicine and Human Development Center



Dr. Fern Tsien, SYI Director, Dept. of Genetics, School of Medicine

Faculty, staff, and trainees from the LSUHSC Schools of Graduate Studies, Dentistry, Nursing, Public Health, Medicine, and Allied Health Professions host middle, high school, and undergraduate class hands-on workshops at LSUHSC. During the morning-long or day-long field trips, students learn about science careers, including research, public health, clinical medicine, audiology, medical technology, and more. Anatomical specimens are displayed including normal lungs, emphysema and cancerous lungs caused by smoking, normal liver and cirrhotic liver due to alcohol consumption, and enlarged hearts due to hypertension. Students tour laboratories, including a highly interactive visit of the Human Simulation Lab by Mr. Daryl Lofaso. Students perform forensics experiments, learn about HeLa cells, and about the health effects of lead in the environment. More than 2000 middle and high school students have been reached through this program since 2009.



Dr. Reggie Thomasson, Dept. of Pathology

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